St. Tr. Sunday, January 6, 1957.

Noffsinger and Gas Industry

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Recently I interviewed Walter B. Noffsinger, 1300 South Fourth street, who undoubtedly knows more about the gas industry than anyone else. It seems that the first manager of the Terre Haute Gas Light Co., Martin Diall, had purchased quite a quantity of the early gas mantle lamps, and since they weren't working successfully, he needed expert advice. So, Mr. Noffsinger came here from Kokomo, Ind., in 1894 to join his twin brother who was already working under contract with Mr. Diall. The twin brother married Maude Fidlar, whose brother was the prominent musician, Chester Fidlar. Mr. Noffsinger married Mary List, a talented artist, daughter of Samuel List, and they had celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary before her death in February, 1956.

Dorothy J. Clark.

All the downtown stores were still lighted by gas in 1894. Electricity was gradually coming in, but it had proven weak in power and very expensive. Gas lighting was the nearest to sunlight, making it very easy to match colors of fabrics—the first electric lights were so color-distorting that one had to take merchandise to a nearby window or door to see the true color.

Just before Mr. Noffsinger arrived in Terre Haute, there was a gas war on between two rival companies. The old gas company was located at Sixth and Canal and the newer company was at Second and Eagle. Gas was sold during this conflict at 35 cents per thousand feet. The older Terre Haute Gas Light Co. soon won out and bought out its rival. The story was told that the first night Martin Diall ate dinner at the old National House at Sixth and Wabash, the gas lights went out, leaving the diners to finish by candlelight—an embarrassing situatio for the manager of the gas company.

Ohio Street Gravel Road.

Mr. Noffsinger remembers that when he first came to this city Ohio street was still a gravel road; I. H. C. Royse was prominent in real estate: Stuckwise & Co. were the main paperhangers and decorators; L. L. Williamson was head of the Waterworks Co.; the old Express and Tribune were located on South Fifth street, known as "Newspaper Row;" Andy Burget was a well-known plumber and gasfitter; St. Joseph's Academy at Fifth and Walnut was in full operation.

The secretary of the Gas Co. was J. B. Harris, who lived at Twelfth and Sycamore. His two daughters taught in the city schools. Mrs. Jessie Powers was the cashier for the Co. Her sister was Maud Shirley. The Gas office moved from 509 Ohio street to Wabash avenue, where Stahl's Queensware Store was formerly located. The newspaper office was next door and one bitter cold night the gas lines had frozen and the paper couldn't be published until Mr. Noffsinger got there to remedy the situation.

When the newspaper moved to Sixth and Ohio to their new building, a drug store moved in the old location. Next door was Watson Plumbing, then Western Union. The Buntin Drug Store was a prominent corner in those days at Sixth and Wabash, with the McKeen Bank on the other corner and Kleeman's Dry Goods on the southeast corner in the Beach Block. In 1894 there was a grocery store run by "Buff" Coffman on the southeast corner of Seventh and Wabash. "Con" Herber's drug store was on the northwest corner, the Terre Haute House on the northeast corner and A. Baur had a drug store where the Merchant's National Bank is now.

National House Piped.

In the early days the National House was piped for gas with all brass fittings and connections. There were not enough malleable iron works in the country to furnish the necessary fittings and there were only a few cast iron works producing fittings.

The principal gas mains were within the original city plat. A large main ran south on Sixth street to service Coates College at Osborne street. Welsbach burners had been installed for street lighting here. The old double wooden bridge over the Wabash with its north and south sides was lighted by gas. Open jets with "fishtail" burners were used and the piping ran down the timbers. As a matter of interest—St. Louis has gas street lighting later than any other city. Terre Haute's old gas lamp posts were removed when the new electricity came into use and they were stored at Fourth and Walnut in the old City Bldg., previously the old Market Bldg. These lamp posts gradually disappeared as some of the city officials used them for clothes line posts and grape arbors. The gas used in those days for illumination of stores, homes and streets was different from the gas used now to furnish heat. Now it is mixed with air to provide the greatest amount of B.T.U.

Network of Piping.

In the old homes in the city, the gas was piped into the house in the front hall and there was a "cubby hole" in the front hall closet to hold the gas meter which had all lead connections. From here the gas lines ran all through the home to furnish lighting. For several years after Mr. Noffsinger became Supt. of Distribution, he had 40 to 50 men working for him piping houses for gas. These men piped as many as five or six houses a day. The first gas cooking stove was the cast iron "Old Reliable." He remembers there was one such stove in the home of Miss Helen Condit, who tells me that this stove was purchased the year of the Johnstown Flood.

Mr. Noffsinger was called on to arrange the gas lighting in several of the local lodge halls for their ritualistic work.

Served Col. Thompson.

Another memorable experience recalled by Mr. Noffsinger was the time he was called to the home of Col. Richard Thompson to adjust his favorite Welsbach gas table lamp. When operating properly, this lamp gave such a perfect light Col. Thompson could read without his glasses. At this time, the colonel was a very old man confined to his room where his desk and books were kept, with his bed in an alcove. He talked to young Noffsinger as if he were an older man, telling him: "You will see that the next great peril to this nation will be from the yellow race." Mr. Noffsinger always has remembered this statement, and how true it later proved to be!

Some of you may not remember what a Welsbach gas lamp looked like. The first part consisted of a Bunsen burner with an adjustable shutter on the bottom to adjust the air baffle with three very small holes. Mr. Noffsinger carried special small tools and reamers for their adjustments. The height of the flame must be exactly ¾-inch with a blue cone. The mantle rested on a framework attached to a very small wire with a loop at the top of platinum wire. The mantle was made of chemically soaked fibers. A straight glass chimney was suspended down inside the framework over the mantle. A fluted shade rested on this. When adjusted properly as to the exact amounts of gas and air, it produced a very fine light more nearly approximating sunlight than any other lamp.

Here are the locations of some of the early gas mains: One line went out north on Lafayette to Eighth and north to Collett Park; a main that came off Wabash went north on Eleventh; one on South Twelfth; a line ran out Poplar as far as Thirteenth street; one on South Third to Park street; on North Seventh a main ran from Oak to the depot (which resembled a big box car—this was before

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the Union Depot); mains on Eagle and Mulberry; on North Fifth, Cherry, Wabash, and Ohio; on Second from Eagle to Swan. These were the principal mains when Mr. Noffsinger came to Terre Haute. Later a line ran down South Third to the big tool works which later became the canning factory. As superintendent of distribution, Mr. Noffsinger has been responsible for a great many of the gas mains in the city. In the early days there was a great deal of pressure trouble. At peak load times there would sometimes be a drop in pressure. To relieve this situation, large governors or controls were installed at several points in the city on the principal mains. In 1910, a new 16-inch main was run out East Poplar street, the old Bloomington road. At Nine and One-half street, opposite the brewery, workmen discovered the buried bridge timbers, 12x12 oak beams, the remains of the bridge across the old canal.

The ovens where the gas was produced and the by-product coke was obtained were located at the foot of Swan street. The round brick building which encased the gas holder is still standing on Water street. This holder couldn't hold enough gas for one hour's service in the city today.

When he retired on Feb. 29, 1952, after 57 years' service, he was presented with a beautiful gold watch engraved: "To Walter B. Noffsinger, from the employees of the Terre Haute Gas Corporation." His has truly been an interesting career to look back on, and know it has been one of great service to his community.

NOTE: Can one of my readers help me locate one of the old gas street lamp posts? If so, please call C-8705, or write to me — Mrs. Robert I. Clark, 2120 North Tenth street, Terre Haute.

AP Newsfeatures

Art of Butchering One Of Pappy Fry's Skills

By DOROTHY J. CLARK 11-7-71

One of the best accounts of pioneer butchering time was found in the Fry family history. Jacob L. Fry, or "Pappy Fry," learned the trade as a young man working for Adam and William Wolf. Their regular butcher made him the official hog sticker and scalder, so by the time he had his own small farm in the early 1860's he had already followed the trade among the neighbors, and had acquired all the necessary tools — a homemade scalding trough, many sharp knives, a single tree, a Potts sausage stuffer, spoons, ladles, a cleaver (his first one was made from a broad-axe by his favorite blacksmith truly tempered and ground very sharp), also other necessary equipment, kettles and paddle-stirrers, etc. He moved from farm to farm by a manure sled of his own manufacturing pulled by a horse. Because there was no refrigeration then, butchering was a cold weather job, much of the labor taking place out in the farmyard.

From the 1870's to 1890's Pappy Fry did custom butchering only. From Thanksgiving to March he butchered daily for the Pennsylvania community within a ten mile radius of his home. With the children to help with the many chores, the butchering day began at 4:30 a.m. with three large iron kettles and some small ones too, all full of boiling water heated over open fires.

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The cattle and hogs were driven to Fry's farm and killed. One beef, perhaps of one thousand pounds, one sheep, and maybe one hog as a day's work. The next day he might butcher six hogs from 300 to 500 pounds each. All the carcasses were usually hanging by 6 to 7 a.m.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

Mr. Fry was adept at killing hogs, sticking the hog in the throat with a razor-sharp dirk. Next the hogs were scalded in a large trough of boiling water so the bristles could be removed easily. Next they were hoisted by a specially built tripod and hung there to be disemboweled.

From these carcasses came the meat to fill the families winter larders — chops, spareribs, tenderloins, hams, steaks, bacon, liverwurst, head-cheese, mincemeat, sausage, lard, pig's feet, jelly, pickled tongue, scrapple, dried beef and bologna.

Even the pig tails were made into whistles by the boys. Hams were cured and put in the smoke house with a slow-burning fire of fresh corn cobs and hickory wood to give the meat a delicious flavor. Mr. Fry had his own secret methods for sugar-curing hams and making bologna and sausages.

Pork loins and chops were fried brown and put in crocks and covered with hot lard. Pudding was made from the boney parts after being cooked until the meat fell off — also the liver and kid-

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Dorothy Clark

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neys — then ground through the sausage grinder and seasoned. Scrapple was made by adding cornmeal to the highly seasoned pork juice.

His slogan "Work for the night is coming" was very true when the daylight hours were fewer in early December, but the days were long to the workers from 4:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mrs. Fry had as many as three ladies to help her clean kettles, pots, pans and crocks and to make the meals for all the hungry family.

Mr. Fry had two men and three bosy who stirred the pudding and rendered the lard. The boys tended the fires that burned up cords of wood, chopped and stacked nearby.

Ability to Pow Wow

After Pappy Fry had made maybe 40 yards of sausage and 25 crocks of pudding and who knows how many stands of lard, he was ready for a bountiful meal. He believed physical labor whets the appetite.

Mr. Fry served his neighbors in many ways and the most unusual service was probably his ability to "Pow Wow."

Most of the people in this Pennsylvania community were very superstitious. They believed in "Pow Wow" and no one could convince them otherwise. Mr. Fry used common sense treatment for a sick cow or horse with the colic, but the humans were a stubborn lot and stuck to their beliefs.

Many mothers, over the years, brought their babies to him to "Pow Wow" for decay. Suffering from insufficient nourishment from breast feeding alone in most cases, Mr. Fry would take the baby in his hands, holding it in the left hand with his right hand on its head. After saying a silent prayer, he would advise the mother to make some "pap" — flour paste from goat's milk, made from cornstarch or wheat flour, and fed by teaspoonful every two hours, gradually increasing the amount for a week and return to see if it was gaining. He could hold a baby and tell its weight by the feel.

So by using simple common sense treatment he would lick the problem and leave the mother happy. Mrs. Fry always gave the mother the first cupful of "pap" with a tiny bit of sugar added. This added calories as well as making the baby enjoy his new food.

AP Newsfeatures

Community Affairs - Dorothy Clark

New Residents Gave Much To City's Early Growth

Ts DEC 26 1971

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Ts DEC 26 1971

Thomas Dowling, a distinguished resident of Vigo County, was born in Ireland in 1810 and came to America in 1818. At the age of eight his parents died and he was thrown upon his own resources for a livelihood. Another source says he was born in 1806 and came to America in 1814.

Young Dowling entered the printing office of the "National Intelligencer" at Washington, D.C., where he was then living and remained there 14 years, or until he was 22.

During this time he had become thoroughly self-educated, and had gained a practical knowledge of the political events of the country.

In 1832 he came to Terre Haute where he started the "Wabash Courier." In 1842 he became editor and proprietor of the EXPRESS, which he conducted with energy and ability as a Whig paper until 1845.

Previous to this he had served eight years as a member of the State Legislature, in which he became a prominent and useful legislator.

In 1864 he erected "Dowling Hall" on North 6th St. at a cost of $60,000. He was active in all leading enterprises of the city — always for the good of the county and city.

In June, 1873, he was unanimously chosen as head of the county commissioners. Grave difficulties had arisen concerning certain alleged extravagant schemes, which were calculated to burden the people with useless and enormous taxatioin for proposed public improvements. Vigo County was carried through this political storm safely, chiefly through his energy and honesty of purpose.

Dorothy Clark

Col. Dowling was an ardent horse-racing fan, a trustee of the Wabash & Erie Canal from 1850 until his death, an official of the Savings Bank from 1869 to 1876, and a member of the city council from 1867 to 1871.

Dowling Hall located where the Chanticleer Building is now, was built at the close of the Civil War and was the first important amusement hall in Terre Haute.

The Dowling Home, at 5th and 1st Ave., was erected about the beginning of the Civil War and was the largest pioneer home of the northwest part of the city.

After the dissolution of the Whig Party, Dowling became a Democrat, and was a member of the National Democratic Committee at the time of his death in 1876.

David S. Danaldson was born in Kentucky in 1809. He received his education in a

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log schoolhouse there. In 1835 he located permanently in Terre Haute, first engaging in the dry goods business. At this time the village extended only to 3rd St. He was burnt out in 1839 but after a time started again in the same business.

In 1845 he purchased from Col. Thomas Dowling the "Wabash Express," and conducted that paper as editor and proprietor until 1853 when he sold out. During his newspaper experience he started th first daily paper ever printed in Terre Haute. This experiment was, at that time, unsuccessful. After disposing of his newspaper establishment, he returned to the dry goods business, and the close of the Civil War sold out to his partner and commenced the prosecution of pension claims. He died in 1894 at the age of 85 years after a long and useful life.

Judge Thomas B. Long was born near the city of Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio, in 1836. His fathers' family subsequently lived in Mansfield, Bucyrus and Springfield in Ohio, and in 1846 moved to Terre Haute.

Young Thomas received his education here, including some college studies, and in 1854 entered the law office of Hon. Richard W. Thompson as a student where he remained for several years, during which time he attended lectures in the law department of the Cincinnati College and graduated in the spring of 1856.

That fall he was elected dis-

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trict attorney for the court of common pleas, and about the same time was engaged as editor of one of the daily papers of the city for about two years. Then he withdrew to devote his entire time to his law practice.

In 1860 he was placed upon the presidential ticket of the Union Party as a candidate for elector. He canvassed his district wherever his services were called for; but, seeing the hopelessness of the success of his party, he urged all wavering voters to support Stephen A. Douglas for president.

From this time he applied himself diligently to his professional pursuits and literary studies until the fall of 1870, when he was elected by the Democratic Party as Judge of the Criminal Circuit Court, which position he filled so acceptably that, in 1874, although political feeling ran high, he received the nomination of both parties and was re-elected without opposition.

Judge Long was a fluent speaker and a graceful writer, and acquired some fame as a poet and composer of ballads and songs which have been set to music and published in the principal cities of the United States.

Community Affairs File

Patrick Shannon Among Early Vigo Financiers

5/12/72

Clark Dorothy

Vigo

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

I'm indebted to Mrs. Duane Klueh, the former Mary Alice Shannon, for much of the information in today's column. The daughter of Frank Shannon, she is the granddaughter of Will Shannon who was adopted by Patrick Shannon, early banker of this city.

Patrick Shannon was born in County Sligo, Ireland, on April 5th, 1830. He was only about a year and a half old when his parents came to America. They landed in New York, came to Cassville, Indiana, and from there moved to Lafayette, Indiana.

Young Patrick came to Terre Haute in 1846 with his father who was a contractor on the Wabash & Erie Canal. Patrick was the paymaster, young as he was. Next he went into the pump business, and for some time sold pumps throughout this section. He then went into the liquor business.

Before the Shannon family came to America, in the early days of Terre Haute, John H. Watson, a native of Rhode Island, settled here. He was one of the most reliable and liberal of the early settlers. By his policy of creating a circulating medium, at a time when money was urgently demanded, and so hard to obtain, and loaning it to farmers and business men without requiring security that would endanger their property, he became a public benefactor. In 1839 he organized Watson's Bank.

In 1856 Mr. Shannon entered the bank as partner, and the business was conducted under the name of Watson & Shannon until 1860 when Mr. Watson died. Mr. Shannon continued the business until the time of his death.

In the days of "wild cat" currency, Watson & Shannon's money was as good as gold. It was always a prosperous institution, and always had the confidence of the public. Mr. Shannon began the work of redeeming the notes issued by the bank in 1860, and by 1865 the majority of them were redeemed. Occasionally one pops up in an antique shop or private collection. Greenbacks and gold passed over the counter to redeem them. Watson & Shannon's bank was first located in the rooms later occupied by Rhodes & Williams' law office on Main Street. In 1864 Mr. Shannon removed the bank to 324 Ohio St.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

Shannon's Bank, the oldest banking business in the city, was the "right hand" of the farming and business interests, and, to a great extent, of the city and surrounding country. Without it, they would not have had money with which to carry on business. Its liberal terms of discount to farmers, stock and grain dealers, and pork-packers, made business lively, and aided greatly in developing the material prosperity of Terre Haute and the Wabash Valley.

Mr. Shannon was a Democrat in politics, a staunch party supporter, and represented the Second Ward in the City Council before the Civil War. In 1862 he was a candidate for county treasurer, but was not elected. In 1871 he was elected by the Indiana legislature as financial agent of the state, and served two years. During his term he paid off nearly all the balance of the

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state debt, so much so that the legislature deemed it inexpedient to have another state agent elected. In 1878 he was a candidate before the Democratic State Convention for state treasurer, but did not receive the nomination.

On the 22nd of April, 1856, Patrick Shannon married Miss Tulley. Three children were born to them, but they died, so they took three other children into their home and adopted them. One of them was Mrs. Thomas A. Anderson, another was Will Shannon of the city fire department, and the other was Mrs. Nellie Shannon Katzenbach.

A Philanthropist

Mr. Shannon was a devout Catholic, a member of St. Joseph's Church, and a member of the Hiberian Benevolent Society. His purse was always open to the needs of his church. The sisters of the various orders in the area never left his office when they came on a mission of mercy without receiving aid.

Patrick Shannon was always a very large man, at one time weighing over three hundred pounds. During his last year his health failed and he was unable to walk from his home at 823 South Fifth street to his office at the bank and was taken in the horse and buggy instead. He passed away of heart disease April 9, 1886.

The funeral was held at St. Joseph's Church and in spite of a downpour of rain was attended by a standing room only crowd of mourners. The Hibernian Benevolent Society attended in a body. Rev. Father McEvoy officiated at solemn requiem high mass. The casket was placed in the middle aisle down near the altar surrounded by two rows of lighted candles.

The casket was so large that it could not be taken down the aisle by the pall bearers, and a funeral car with rollers had to used. The casket was made to order at Cincinnati and was the largest ever used here to that date. It was six feet three inches long, 28 inches wide, and 22 inches deep, of red cedar, full satin-lined, cloth-covered, draped, with oxidized handles, gold name plate and gold crosses. The top was covered with the ornate floral designs of that date, including crescent with doves, inscribed, a harp, anchor, wreath, crosses and a sheaf of wheat.

An obituary of a local newspaper referred to the deceased as the "Hon. Patrick Shannon, the well-known Wall Street banker and broker . . . one of Terre Haute's leading business men and prominent citizen . . . His life may be considered as eventful in many ways. It shows what a man can do who has push, energy and integrity."

Biography M
CLARK, Dorothy

Martin Diall Prominent Commun

Community Affairs File

At Turn of Century

Public Utilities (Tit)

Ts MAR 4 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

One of Terre Haute's most prominent citizens at the turn of the century was Martin N. Diall, superintendent of the old Terre Haute Gas Light Company, later known as the Citizens' Gas & Fuel Company.

Mr. Diall came to Terre Haute from Painesville, Ohio, to take charge of the local plant on March 4, 1873. W. B. Warren was then president and M. W. Williams was secretary of the company.

Following Mr. Warren, Firmin Nippert was president. Then came Demas Deming as president until 1894 when John D. McIlhenny of Philadelphia purchased both the Terre Haute Gas Light Co., which was the old company, and the new opposition company that came into the field as the Citizens' Gas & Fuel Co. He consolidated both under the latter title due to the fact that the newer company had at the time 45 years to run and the old company, which was organized in 1852, had only twelve years of its charter left.

The Citizens' Company was organized by Frank McKeen, A. Z. Foster, R. S. Tennant, J. R. Kendall and others as a company to sell gas by the McKenzie process for fuel purposes only. The combined company manufactured artificial gas to be used for any purpose.

When Diall took charge of the local gas compnay in 1873, the output was only 50,000 feet. By 1904 it had reached twelve or fifteen times that capacity. In that year Diall celebrated his thirty-first anniversary with the local company. Altogether he had been 35 years in the gas business, having been engaged in Ohio before he came here. He was generally recognized as one of the most expert men in his field in the United States.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

Martin Diall had an eventful career. He was born at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1851. Two years later both his parents died in a cholera epidemic. For some years afterward he was what was called in those days a street orphan existing precariously from day to day by selling newspapers and blacking shoes on the streets of Cleveland.

Fortunately for him he fell in with a boy named Crawford whose family took an interest in him and kept him for four or five years, sending him to school in the country near Cleveland.

Mr. Diall remembered sleeping in the barn of a Presbyterian deacon one night. Someone had told Pillsbury that a tramp boy was sleeping in his barn and the old man came out at night and kicked young Diall out of the warm barn.

The orphan boy slept in a woodshed that night and the

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next day told some boys about it. They told all the other boys at school and the boys in turn told their parents. The result was that the entire neighborhood was aroused in indignation over Pillsbury's act. Mrs. Crawford, who was Mr. Diall's guardian angel, heard about it and she asked her son if he knew where the boy was. The Crawford boy said he did; that at the moment he was sleeping in their barn. Mrs. Crawford at once went out to the barn with an old-fashioned lantern and brought young Diall in and put him to bed in the house. Then he became part of the family.

Mr. Diall well-remembered trembling at the sight of Mrs. Crawford coming out with the lantern. He could see her between the cracks in the barn and he supposed he was to be kicked out, a repeat of the Pillsbury experience.

Old Common Council proceedings show that the ordinance was passed to provide for lighting the city with gas in March, 1855. A corporation formed by Samuel Ross and Thomas W. Hay was authorized to lay gas pipes and set up a gas works for the manufacture of gas by the last day of December, 1856. All the lamp posts, lamps, tubing, burners, etc., for the public lamps were to be furnished by the company. The rate was not to exceed that paid at Cincinnati for a like amount of gas, per lamp or burner.

In 1864 the Common Council passed an ordinance authorizing the Citizens' Gas Light Co. to erect their buildings, to lay pipes, and to light the streets. The new gas works was to be located between Poplar and Swan streets and between Water Street and the Wabash River.

A supply of natural gas from the Diall Well was sufficient for the needs of Terre Haute for over 30 years, but a combination of increased demand and failure of supply made it necessary in 1890 for the Citizens' Co. to erect a plant for the manufacturer of artificial gas. The ovens where the gas was produced and the by-product coke was obtained were located at the foot of Swan Street.

Walter B. Noffsinger, who passed away in 1962, was brought here from Kokomo, Ind., by Martin Diall to give expert advice on gas mantles. He joined his twin brother who was already employed here.

All the downtown stores were lighted by gas in 1894. Electricity was g r a d u a l l y coming in, but it had proven weak in power and very expensive. Gas lighting was the nearest to sunlight, making it very easy to match colors of fabrics, etc. The first electric lights were so color-distorting that one had to take merchandise to a nearby window or door to see the true color.

Noffsinger told of the gas war between the two rival companies that was in progress just before he arrived in town. The old gas company was located at Sixth and Canal and the newer company was at Second and Eagle. Gas was sold during this conflict at 35 cents per thousand feet. The older Terre Haute Gas Light Co. soon won out and bought out its rival.

The story was told that the first night Martin Diall ate dinner at the old National House at Sixth and Wabash, the gas lights went out, leaving the diners to finish by candlelight—an embarrassing situation for the manager of the gas company!

William N. Perry Owned First Vigo Co. Tannery

Community Affairs File

Ts NOV 1 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

According to local history the first tannery in Vigo county was owned by William N. Perry. Born at Pittsburg, Pa., in 1788, Wm. Neely Perry came to Indiana very early and located in what is now Vigo county. He bought land, 80 acres in the far south part of the county below Middletown, and became a prosperous farmer and built the first tannery here. He traded with the Indians for pelts, shipping the leather to New Orleans and Chicago on flat boats. The tax rolls of 1828 show Perry had one horse and two oxen.

Files of the old town records are fairly filled with the appointment of committees to investigate tanneries as to their effect on the health of the town or their being complained of as nuisances, etc. The dressing of the skins of fur-bearing animals and the finishing of the leathers at the tanneries lent a certain "atmosphere" to the growing towns.

William N. Perry married K. Catheryn McClure in 1820. She was born in 1800 in Cynthiana, Kentucky, and lived there until age 11 when she came to Lawrenceville, Ill., to make her home with an uncle. Here she met and married Mr. Perry. History says her mother was a Cherokee Indian. Some say her name was White Cloud and she was full-blooded and others say half-blooded. They had 11 children: John O., Nancy, Emily, Eliza, Sarah, Mary, Rachel, Oliver H., Frances Ann, Jane, Angeline and Jno. H. Three of the girls, Nancy, Sarah and Mary married Pogue brothers, John, Albert and Hiram.

William N. Perry, the first tanner, died in 1851 and is buried in Pleasant Green Cemetery on the road south of John Pogue's farm turning east at the first road going to Scott City and Shelburn. Mrs. Perry died in 1871 at the home of her daughter Nancy Pogue at Shelbyville, Ill., and is buried at Antioch Cemetery. All female decendants of this Wm. N. Perry are eligible for membership in DAR through his father William Perry, a Lt. Col. in the Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania Militia during the Revolutionary War.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

The tanning of animal skins was one of man's earliest crafts. The skin was preserved so that he might use it for clothing, shelter and utensils. Sometimes the hair was kept on the hide, but usually it was removed.

Through the centuries the process has changed from the primitive method of salting, drying and manipulating the hide to soften it. The work was carried on in the tribes or families until tanning followed other home crafts and became a commercial industry. Tanneries were built where water power was available to turn the large water wheels. These turned the grinders to grind the tan bark and furnished water for the pumps to carry the tanning liquor through the vats where the hides were cured for almost a year. Now this method of tanning has been replaced by more

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but it takes time and hard work."

Many a leather craftsman still misses the texture and pungent odor of the hand-tanned leather and is willing to improvise ways of making it. One man secured three heavy barrels to substitute for the vats where the hides were soaked. Accordng to this tanner, "Tanning is very simple, kes time and hard work."

"A heavy steer hide requires a year or more, but a calf or deer hide may be made into leather in eight or nine months. Hides are secured now from farmers, butchers, or at slaughter houses and should be used as soon as possible after their removal from the animal."

First the hide is soaked in lime water made of 30 lbs of slacked lime and 10 gallons of water. This requires from 4 to 12 hours. After this the hair is loose and together with any flesh on the inside of the hide is scraped off with a dull knife. To do this, the skin is spread over a curved surface, possibly a smooth peeled log. The tanner must be careful not to cut the skin.

When the hair and flesh are removed, the skin is next immersed in the tanning liquor. Weak liquor is used at first, a solution of water and oak bark made by using about five pounds of bark to each gallon of water.

The bark was sometimes hand-ground in an old grinder, sometimes ground by water power, and sometimes ground at a mill. The oak bark was peeled from live oak trees in the spring when the sap was rising. Later an "extract" could be purchased commercially which would serve the purpose.

The old tanner told how the three large vats were sunk in the ground and filled full of oak "liquor." The first contained the weakest solution and the other two were progressively stronger. The hides were left in the weak liquor about a month. Then they were moved into the second vat, and after two or three months were moved into the last one. Using three large barrels of the solutions, one steer hide at a time could be tanned.

When the hide was sufficently tanned it was removed and allowed to dry. Here is where the work really began. Again the hide was scraped with a shaver to give it a more uniform thickness and finish. "Dubbin," to use the tanner's terminology, was rubbed into the hide as it was worked. This softened the leather. Dubbin is a combination of equal parts of neat's foot oil and tallow. After the shaving, a further finish was added by rubbing the leather with a smooth stone.

Although most of the leather from the old tanneries was light tan, some of it was black. This was done by applying a solution made by soaking scraps of iron and copperas in some of the tanning liquid. Copperas is crystallized ferrous sulphate. Before putting this on the hide, the area was washed with water and household soda and allowed to dry. The dye was patted on with a cloth and when the color had penetrated about half the thinkness of the leather, dubbin was rubbed on to stop the dye from going deeper. A final polish with the stone, and the fine leather would repay the year of work and care.

Many of today's fine leather craftsmen have taken up the old craft of tanning their own leather — complete with the "atmosphere" of the old days!

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Community Affairs File

Historically Speaking

Biography – Mahaney

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Ts MAR 14 1976

Over the years, many people have suggested that I write about Patsy Mahaney, one of Terre Haute's colorful downtown business men. Just recently I received a faded clipping of a newspaper article written about him and his rise from rags to riches, so to speak, found in a national publication.

The Mahaney family is found in city directories as early as 1890. Catharine, the widow of Richard Mahaney; Lawrence, a helper at the Terre Haute Iron Company, and Miss Lizzie, were all living at 409 S. 12th St.

The first mention of Patrick Mahaney (also found spelled Mhany and Maheney) was with the same family living at 1013 Poplar St. in 1894. Two years later, Patrick was a waiter, his first employment.

In 1901, Patrick R. Mahaney lived at 1444 Wabash Ave., but by 1904 he had moved to 19 N. 8th St., and was listed as a popcorn manufacturer. He lived at 1501 Tippecanoe in 1906, but by 1908 his place of business was 811 Wabash, and his occupation was listed as confectioner for the first time. This continued until 1925 when he and his wife, Blanche, operated three candy stores, at 683 Wabash, 801 Wabash, and in the Orpheum Theatre.

Patsy Mahaney, the local business man who ran a popcorn ball up to a fortune is still remembered by many older residents. Born on St. Patrick's day, he dealt in sunshine and sweetness all his life with phenomenal success.

Nearly 60 years ago, National Magazine featured Patsy and his rise from rags to riches. The magazine article told how "in the smokiest city west of Pittsburgh, he has scattered sunshine and sold candy with such skill and diligence that in a few years he has graduated from a street corner popcorn stand to a chain of confectionery stores, covering his native town, Terre Haute, Ind., with branches in Richmond, Ind., and Louisville, Ky.

"Everybody in Terre Haute knows 'Patsy' as he prefers to be called. In fact, you can't remain long in the metropolis of the Wabash Valley without knowing him. The genial sunshine merchant is a vital part of the life of the town, and somehow or somewhere you are bound to encounter him. You may be walking down the street when your attention is attracted to a group of citizens gathered about a distinguished looking gentleman, dressed like an English lord, whose ready wit and fluent tongue have charmed and fascinated his hearers. Or perhaps you're buying stamps in the post office when a lusty-noted Swiss yodel stirs the cobwebs on the ceiling, and you look around to see a genial Irishman in a checkered suit and brown derby buying war stamps (World War I) and coaxing the girl behind the wicket to stick them in his book for him, and somebody at your elbow remarks, 'Patsy's back from California!'

"Across from the interurban station is the 'In & Out' store where Patsy has his office and where Mrs. Patsy presides over the daylight candy kitchen with its yard of plate glass windows and rows of bright copper kettles, its tables laden with sweetmeats and its busy, whiteclad workers. Under the big sign across the front of the building which proclaims 'Patsy's Candy Shop,' is the characteristic Hoosierism, 'Patsy sez his milkman keeps a cow.'

Inside the store on the walls over the glass cases filled with the 'U-Kno' brand, are such philosophical orphics as: 'You can always tell what a man has not, by what he most admires.' 'Some folks spend enough crying over spilled milk to buy a cow,' and many more.

"Patsy began his business career as a news agent on trains, and his first ambition was to be a railroad man. The lure of the footlights, however, distracted him from this goal, and at the age of 21, he joined J. Moy Bennett's stock company and made a tour of the South. As an actor, patsy was not a success, and he came back to Terre Haute penniless to work in a restaurant where the verbal embellishments he gave the 'bill of fare' when repeating it to patrons, became the feature of the place.

"The spirit of restlessness and the 'call of higher things' finally caused him to break his

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over

apron strings one Saturday evening and quit the restaurant business with his accumulated savings of 50 cents. He embarked on a freight train in the Vandalia yards and arrived in Indianapolis the next morning, somewhat poorer, having expended half of his money in allaying conscientious scruples of a brakeman.

"After a 10-cent breakfast, he strolled forth into the early Sunday morning stillness of the Hoosier capitol and met an old friend of his news agent days. This friend persuaded him to invest the remaining 15 cents of his fortune in an excursion ticket speculation scheme, which made good, and the pair peddled song books and souvenirs at many street fairs and carnivals until one day at Connersville, Ind., Patsy's attention was attracted by a village - blacksmith - sort - of - a - person, clad in calico and blue jeans, who was making a popcorn confection which he called 'Cracker-Jack.' He was at once struck by the commercial possibilities of this new sweet. Dissolving partnership with his news agent friend, he hired out to the originator of cracker-jack and they made the circuit of the carnivals, street fairs, county fairs and state fairs that season, making and selling the delightful confection which was just being introduced to the public. Patsy's singing and yodeling attracted the crowds and the cracker-jack satisfied their sweet tooth.

"That winter Patsy returned to Terre Haute to work in a restaurant and to marry a Terre Haute girl. He saved his money, bought a cracker-jack outfit in the spring, and set up a stand at one of the principal street corners. He gave away his first two batches of cracker-jack to give the crowd a taste of its quality, and he gave them away in his inimitable free-hearted Irish way."

—Historically Speaking—

By Dorothy Clark

Leading citizen of century ago, James Seath, led interesting life

Ts JUN 25 1978

A century ago, one of Terre Haute's leading citizens was James Seath, president of the Terre Haute Car and Manufacturing Company.

A native of Edinburgh, Scotland, he was born Aug. 1, 1827, the son of James and Ann (Ross) Seath, the third of thirteen children.

In 1833, the family emigrated to America, and located in Albany, N.Y., where six-year-old James attended common school and learned the machinist's trade.

At the age of 21, he went to New York City to work on the Hudson River Railroad.

After five years in the shops and on the road, he became a master mechanic on the Hudson & Berkshire Railroad. Five years later he became master mechanic at Bloomington, Illinois, on the Chicago & Alton Railroad. Two years later he went to Missouri to take the position as foreman for the Missouri Northern Railroad, becoming master mechanic of that road the next year.

In 1862 he went to the Terre Haute & Alton Railroad at Litchfield, Ill., where he remained until 1867, the year he became a resident of Terre Haute. He at once founded the shops. The original firm was Seath, Smith & Company, and was located in the old Holmes building.

After six months the firm was changed to Seath & Hager when he went into business with J. B. Hager and became superintendent of the T.H. Car & Mfrg. Co.

In 1878 the company was incorporated with capital of $50,000 all paid in. They made freight cars, car wheels, railroad castings and machinery.

In 1868 the plant capacity was one flat car per week. In 1880 they produced eight cars a day.

During 1879 they turned out 1,600 box, stock, coal and flat cars, requiring for their construction about 5,000 tons of cast iron, 3,000 tons of wrought iron and axles and about 5,000 feet of lumber.

They employed 300 men with a weekly payroll of $2,500. During 1879 the company did $650,000 worth of business.

They made cars for the Vandalia Railroad.

Besides the 300 men employed directly, they employed over 200 indirectly. Their supply of wrought iron and nails was furnished by local manufacturers, and several saw mills supplied the oak timber.

At that time J. B. Hager was president and treasurer, James Seath, vice president and superintendent; and L. G. Hager, brother of J. B. Hager and a local insurance agent, was secretary.

J. B. Hager was born in 1823, a native of Hagerstown, Md.

Although the name is of German origin, the family had lived in America since 1680. As a young boy, Hager had come to Terre Haute in 1834 with his father's family to make their home. He was educated at West Point Military College of New York and served during the Civil War.

He was a member of Terre Haute Commandery No. 16, A.F.& A.M.

James Seath was one of 14 stockholders of the Vigo Iron Furnace when it began operation in 1870 with a capacity of 25 tons daily in two runs. The company's capital was $125,000.

The T.H. Car & Mfrg. Co., incorporated July 19, 1875, grew out of a small shop and foundry built and operated by James Seath.

In 1887 the works burned to the ground, a loss of nearly $300,000, but was immediately rebuilt. Located in the southeast part of the city, the plant covered 26 acres with ironclad, one-story buildings.

Three miles of standard gauge track traversed the yards in every direction.

The shops were arranged to necessitate the least possible rehandling of various parts of cars until they met at the erecting shop, which had an area of 40,000 square feet and space for ten cars.

The annual output in 1891 was 3,000 cars. Six hundred men were employed at that time in making all types of railroad cars except passenger cars.

Their leading speciality was the manufacturer of Barr's patent process car wheels. Eight thousand were produced annually beyond what was required for their own use. These wheels were made with a chilled iron rim which was afterward ground true upon an emery wheel, making them particularly desirable and durable.

In 1891, James Seath was president, Lewis J. Cox was vice president and treasurer; G. W. Gillespie, secretary, and R. L. Cox was superintendent.

Seath was described as one of the plainest men in personal appearance in this city. Day after day and year after year he worked among his men at the car shops.

Being an expert mechanic, he could work in any department, and when the works were in full blast, his familiar figure was to be seen almost any hour of the day.

In many respects, James Seath was a peculiar character. He was very quiet which made him all the more widely known. He was scarcely ever seen in company with anyone. On the street he walked with a swift, shifting gait which always attracted attention.

Only his closest friends knew of his generous gifts to local churches, hospitals, charities, politics, etc. He loved little children and delighted in playing with his grandchildren.

Seath married Christine Kilner, the oldest of six children of John G. and Katharine (Herron) Kilner, at Bethlehem, N.Y., in 1852.

They had four children: Mary D., who married C. E. Blood and had a daughter, Jessie Blood; Jessie, who died young; Jessie, who married C. Conant, and had a son Charley; and James R. Seath.

Another local history source states that Miss Jessie Seath, daughter of James and Christine (Kilner) Seath, married Joseph Gfroerer, president of Terre Haute Printing Co. The Gfroerers had a daughter, Helen Christine, born Christmas Day, 1904.

The son was involved in stove manufacturing in 1887 with E. J. King at 603 N. 6th St., the corner of Sixth and the Vandalia Railroad. The plant was a 3-story brick factory 50 by 50 with a one-story foundry in the rear 90 by 50 with a 15 h.p. steam engine. Twenty-five skilled mechanics made cooking and heating stoves.

"Uncle Jimmy" Seath died at his home on Ohio Street, Oct. 5, 1895, a member of the Universalist faith and a staunch Republican. He was mourned by all.

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Historically Speaking

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This local man knew plenty about the gas industry here

T s NOV 1 5 1981

By DOROTHY CLARK
Tribune-Star Writer

There was one man in Terre Haute who knew more about the local gas industry at his time than any other.

He was Walter B. Noffsinger (1875-1962), who came here from Kokomo in 1894 to join his twin brother who was already working under contract with Martin Diall, first manager of the Terre Haute Gas Light Co.

It seems Diall had purchased a quantity of the early gas mantle lamps, and they were not working successfully. He needed expert advice.

All the downtown stores were still lighted by gas in 1894.

Electricity was gradually replacing it, but it originally had proven very expensive and weak in power.

Gas lighting was the nearest to sunlight, making it very easy to match fabric colors.

The first electric lights distorted colors so much that customers had to take merchandise to a nearby window or door to see the true color by daylight.

The two rival gas companies in Terre Haute were engaged in a gas war at the time of Noffsinger's arrival.

The old gas company was located at Sixth and Canal streets; the newer company was at Second and Eagle streets.

Gas was sold during this conflict at 35 cents per 1,000 feet.

The older Terre Haute Gas Light Co. soon bought out its rival.

The secretary of the gas company in 1894 was J. B. Harris, who lived at 12th and Sycamore streets. His two daughters taught in the city schools. Jessie Powers was the company's cashier. Mrs. Powers was the sister of Maud Shirley.

The Gas Office moved from 509 Ohio to Wabash Avenue where Stahl's Queensware Store was formerly located. The newspaper office was next door, and one bitter cold night, the gas lines froze, and the newspaper couldn't publish until Noffsinger got there to remedy the situation. Later the newspaper moved to its new building at Sixth and Ohio.

In the early days, the National House was piped for gas with all brass fittings and connections.

There were not enough malleable iron works in the country to furnish necessary fittings, and there were only a few cast iron works producing fittings.

The principal gas mains were within the original city plat. A large main ran south on Sixth Street to service Coates College at Osborne Street. Welsbach burners had been installed for street lighting here.

The old double wooden bridge over the Wabash River had gas lights along its north and south sides. Open jets with "fishtail" burners were used, and the piping ran down the timbers.

Terre Haute's old gas lamp posts were removed when the new electricity came into use. They were stored at Fourth and Walnut streets in the old City Hall, formerly the old Market Building. These lamp posts gradually disappeared.

The gas used in those days for illumination of stores, homes and streets was different from gas used now to furnish heat.

Now it is mixed with air to provide the greatest amount of BTUs.

In the oldest homes in the city, the gas was piped into the house through the front hall. A "cubby hole" in the front hall closet housed the gas meter and all its lead connections. From here the gas lines ran all through the home to furnish lighting.

For several years after Noffsinger became superintendent of distribution, he had 40 to 50 men working for him piping houses for gas. These workers piped as many as five to six houses a day.

The first gas cooking stove was the cast iron "Old Reliable." Noffsinger told of one such stove in the home of the Condit family located now on the campus of Indiana State University. It was purchased the year of the Johnstown Flood.

Noffsinger arranged the gas lighting in several of the local lodge halls for ritualistic work.

A memorable experience he told of was the time he was called to the home of Colonel Richard W. Thompson to adjust his favorite Welsbach gas table lamp. When operating properly, this lamp gave such a perfect light that the colonel, then a very old man confined to his room most of the time, could read without his glasses.

Many readers may not remember what a Welsbach gas lamp looked like. Basically it consisted of a Bunsen burner with an adjustable shutter on the bottom to adjust the air baffle with three very small holes. Noffsinger carried special small tools and reamers for their adjustment. The height of the flame must be exactly three-fourths of an inch with a blue cone. The mantle rested on a framework attached to a very small wire with a loop at the top of platinum wire. The mantle was made of chemically soaked fibers. A straight glass chimney was suspended down inside the framework over the mantle. A fluted shade rested on this. When adjusted properly allowing for the exact amount of gas and air, it produced a very fine light more similar to sunlight than any other lamp.

Noffsinger knew the location of every gas main and pressure control in the city when he retired in 1952 after 57 years of service.

He and his wife, the former Mary List, talented artist and daughter of Samuel List, celebrated their 54th anniversary before her death in 1956. His twin brother married Maud Fidlar, sister of local musician, Chester Fidlar.

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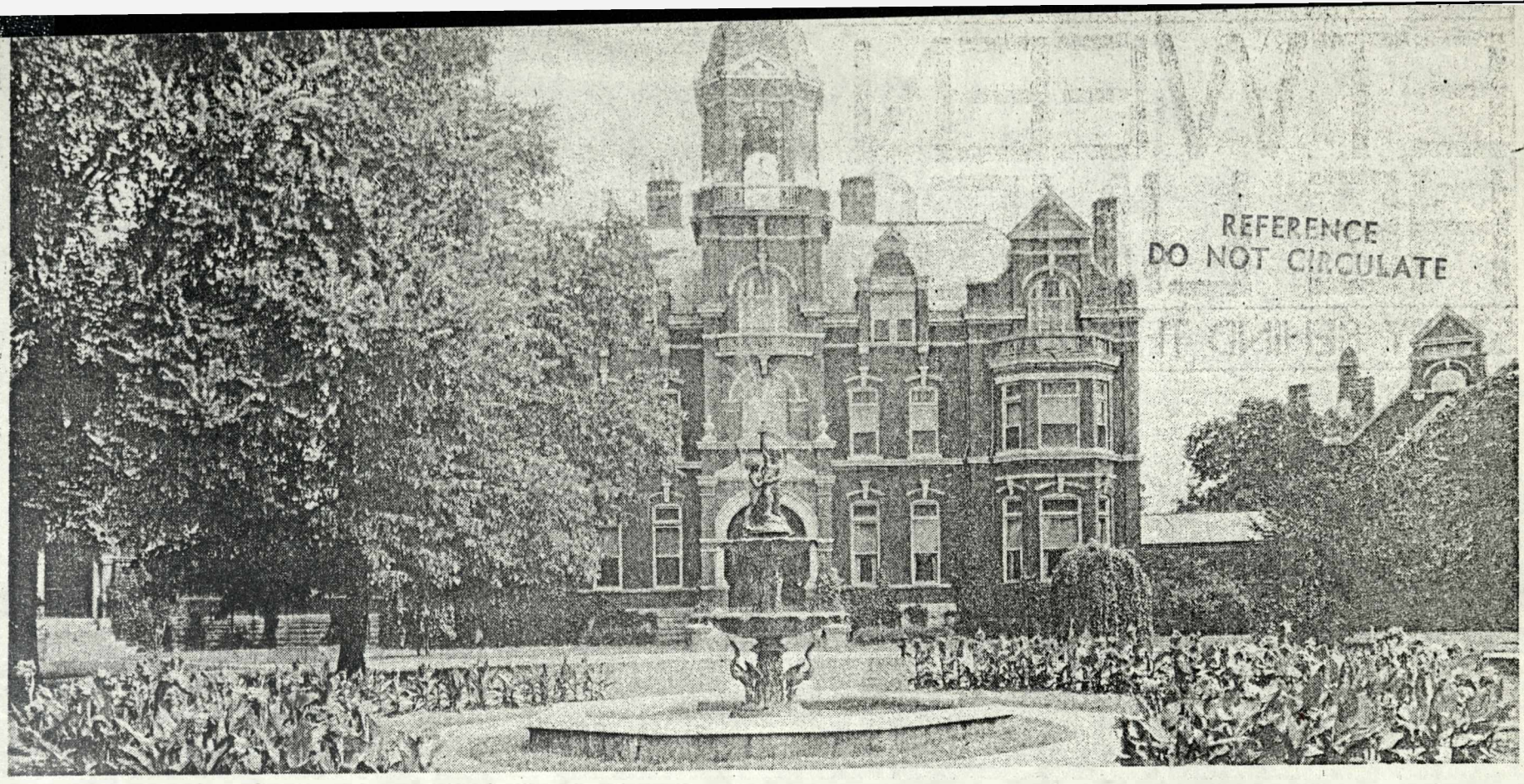

The Rose Home, 25th St. and Wabash Ave....Photo by Martin

Community Affairs File

Historically speaking

Remembering Chauncey Rose

Valley TS AUG 8 1982

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Few men have left as many evidences of a human and philanthropic spirit or have bestowed their charities so wisely as Chauncey Rose, Terre Haute's earliest philanthropist.

Chauncey Rose was born on Christmas eve in 1794 in a farm house on Wethersfield Meadow in Connecticut, and died in Terre Haute on Aug. 13, 1877. His father, John Rose, was the son of the emigrant John Rose who came from Scotland early in 1700.

Mary Warner, his mother, was the daughter of John Warner of Wethersfield. She died in 1832 at the age of 72; his father died in 1838 at the age of 80. Chauncey Rose survived his six brothers and one sister, all of whom had no children, so that when he died, also childless, he was the last of his family.

In October, 1875, when the Old Settlers' Society met, he told of his arrival in Indiana. "In the fall of 1817, I traversed the states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, looking for a location at which to reside and engage in business. I spent several days in Terre Haute which had been laid out the previous year. The following winter I spent in Mount Sterling, Ky. Favorably impressed by the location and the people in and about Terre Haute, I returned and became a resident in April, 1818."

"There were but two cabins in Terre Haute, and the nearest boarding house was at Fort Harrison," he explained. "There were no direct roads. The trip east was made by the way of Louisville, Baltimore and Philadelphia. It was a source of great rejoicing when the first steamboat landed at Terre Haute in 1822."

Rose told how "in 1819 I moved to Parke County and engaged in the milling industry. I sawed and furnished lumber for the courthouse erected in the public square. I returned to Terre Haute in 1825."

Those six years at Roseville in Parke County were years of hard, unceasing labor, chopping timber, driving oxen, and building the dam. He frequently worked in the mill dam in waist-deep water for hours at a time.

When Rose ran for political office in Parke County and was badly beaten by his opponent, he decided to return to Terre Haute. He never ran for political office again.

In 1825 he opened a store near the corner of Second and Ohio streets. He had accumulated $2,000 by his hard labor to start him off on the new business venture. From this small beginning he became one of the most popular and successful merchants in this region. His profits were judiciously invested in land, which he worked according to the most improved methods of the time, until, acre by acre, it gradually passed from farm land to city lots with the increased population. In these and other ways, open only to those who improve the opportunity of a new country, he amassed a fortune.

His old home stood at the northeast corner of Seventh and Chestnut streets where the University School now stands. Its modest exterior, broad veranda, low roof and rambling outlines, situated in a grassy orchard nearly a block square, gave it the appearance of an old New England farmhouse.

According to earlier accounts of his life, "his wealth grew apace. To his own were added by inheritance the vast accumulation of a brother in New York City . . . and it became a grave question with him how to make a wise disposition of it. He is said to have remarked to a friend: 'Other people have trouble to make money, but my trouble is how to dispose of it.'"

Just a few months before his death, Chauncey Rose made his last will in February, 1877. Among his many bequests and charities, he left $90,000 to the Ladies Aid Society (formed in 1869 and renamed the Rose Ladies Aid Society in 1892). He left money to Providence Hospital, later known as St. Ann's Orphan Home. A medical dispensary was endowed where the poor could obtain medicine without money. This became the Rose Dispensary at Seventh and Cherry streets.

Rose provided for the Rose Orphan's Home with a $150,000 endowment, sufficient to insure its permanency. This was in addition to what he had already provided for that project. This area is now the K-Mart Shopping Plaza and the funds are still under the direction of a self-perpetuating board of directors who administer the home for elderly women at 721 Eighth Ave. from the funds.

Rose gave $80,000 to Wabash College and contributed liberally to the expenses of nearly every church in Terre Haute. Last, but not least, was his founding of Rose *Polytechnic Institute, now called* Rose-Hulman Institute.

On Oct. 22, 1874, Rose organized and endowed the Vigo County Orphan's Home with $150,000. This fund was wisely invested, and, due to the high interest rates at that time, it was possible to purchase 20 acres at the northeast corner of 25th and Wabash to erect eight beautiful brick and stone buildings without using the original endowment funds.

The style of architecture was called Queen Anne although the buildings were really a modern rendering of Queen Anne of the late 17th century. The administration building was almost identical with the central section of England's Sandringham Palace.

The architect was Samuel Hannaford of Cincinnati who also designed the Vigo County Court House and Union Station. The institution was completed and opened for children on Sept. 4, 1884.

We are reminded of the little poem that in part states: "And departing leave behind us foot prints on the sands of time . . ." Chauncey Rose, who died 105 years ago, did indeed leave footprints, even if some of them are a little blurred by human hands.

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Area publisher Isaac Brown worked for better communities

Clark, Dorothy + Biography + Newspapers

Community Affairs

1 s DEC 4 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark

Historically speaking

Local newspaper publisher, Isaac Mulkey Brown, came from a distinguished family. According to Mary Lou Cooley of Farmersburg, whose research for a journalism class term paper at Indiana State University dealt with publishers of Sullivan County, Ind., newspapers, Brown's father was a barrister and his mother was related to Mary Ball, mother of George Washington. Brown's first cousins were John Starnes of Tennessee, a general of the Confederacy, and Sarah Childress Polk, wife of President James K. Polk.

While a student at Indiana University, Brown had written for state publications, and was the founder and first president of the I.U. Dramatic Society. Following graduation he worked for the Paris Beacon, owned by his uncle, William Moore. From Paris, Brown went to Iowa City to manage a small weekly, returned to Indiana in 1841 to become foreman of the Terre Haute Courier for seven years, a position he left for a like one on the Terre Haute Express.

When Brown learned that the Courier was planning to publish a daily, this writer and printer of unbounded enthusiasm decided to jump the gun. The Daily Express came off the press May 15, 1841, before the Courier. Its first editorial stated: "We presume that no one thing, other than a daily paper, could give Terre Haute more of a city character and bring it into greater notice than the publication of a daily, which we are giving you today."

Brown later published a newspaper called The Prairie City, and also purchased part interest in one called The American, later buying out the share of his partner, John W. Silverthorn, who went to the Evansville Courier. He changed the name of The American to The Union. It was published in Terre Haute on Third Street "north of the McKeen & Minshall Bank."

When the Civil War broke out, Brown stopped publishing The Union and volunteered, along with four of his printers, to serve for over three years with the Seventy-first Indiana Infantry. Once he was captured by his own cousin, the Gen. Starnes mentioned previously. Starnes became a general before the war was over, Brown a colonel. Brown was captured twice more, a second time by John Morgan in Kentucky, and the third time in Georgia during Stoneman's raid on Macon.

He was imprisoned at Oglethorpe and almost starved to death, developing an intestinal ailment from eating putrid meat and other discarded refuse, from which he suffered the rest of his life and which finally led to his death.

His death would have come years earlier before he ever became a publisher again had Gen. Sherman not ordered the release of 1,400 prisoners chosen to be shot by their own guns at Charleston, S.C.

While still on the battlefield, Brown wrote "The Soldier's Grave" while on night picket duty at Franklin, Tenn. This was published nationwide and read at every state and national G.A.R. encampment for years. He also wrote "A Dream," poetically depicting the Civil War battles.

With his health and fortune gone, Brown returned to Terre Haute after the war. The family farm at Champaign, Ill., had been sold to help feed their neighbor children. The Browns decided to move to Indiana so their older children might attend I.U. They sold their beautiful old rosewood furniture his parents had brought from Tennessee in a covered wagon for three bags of cornmeal and a slab of bacon. All they brought with them to Indiana was one old carved sofa.

At a Fourth of July celebration in Sullivan, Ind., Brown became convinced that with the spirit of those men behind him he could again launch a Union paper. However, politics and strong feeling almost ended the Sullivan newspaper before it got started. It is told that Brown was first warned by letter and then by a committee of anti-Union (southern sympathizers) men who took him over to the banks of the Wabash River and showed him the spot where the last Union editor had been thrown in, along with his equipment. Brown was not impressed. He pointed out that his own brother published a Confederate newspaper. The first issue of the Sullivan Union was printed Aug. 1, 1866 with 750 subscribers pledging their support.

Described as "six feet, two inches tall, wearing a high silk hat and a coat-cape that swung from his height with an authority that defied defeat," Brown never heard from the anti-Union group again. He built the paper into a respected weekly, and served as postmaster as long as he was in Sullivan.

In 1872 he sold the Union to Uriah Coulson, and in 1876 became editor of the Columbus Weekly Republican, a paper founded by his son, Isaac Theodore, and a Frank Lantz. Later, afterBrown had helped his son, Chalmers, found a job-printing office in Terre Haute, both returned to Columbus and purchased Lantz's interest. Brown again became editor.

In his later years, Brown wrote for eastern publications and had a poetical story, "Eleanore and Theodore," published in "Harper's." His love of music was inherited by his daughter, Myrsene M. Brown Shirk, who founded the first kindergarten in Columbus and was appointed by the government to visit Indian tribes and record their native music. Her manuscripts can be found in the Smithsonian Institute.

Brown's first wife, the mother of Myrsene, Isaac, Chalmers and Phillip, died in 1856. He married Mary Frances Eddy of Springfield, Mass., a descendant of Ethan Allen. She was a poet whose work had appeared in eastern papers under the pen-name of "Leafy Linwood." She had met Brown on a visit to her sister, Annie, the wife of Alexander Thomas, one of the early mayors of Terre Haute. The story is that she submitted a collection of poems to editor Brown; he accepted them; she accepted him.

Brown was always active in G.A.R. and was secretary of the first Indiana association of ex-Union prisoners of the Civil War. They organized Feb. 4, 1882, in Terre Haute to petition for a pension bill.

His granddaughter said, "He was intensely alert to any act of national, state or local progress. He had been a Whig and later a Republican, and he dipped his pen in vitrolic ink when he assailed a man whom he thought unworthy to serve the public in office."

Only two children survived Brown in 1899, a daughter in Missouri and a son, Eddy H. Brown of Terre Haute, for many years foreman of his father's pressroom. His grandchildren also became writers.

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Business Industry (Misc) History ✱Clark Dorothy
Community Affairs File

O'Boyle developed much of early Wabash Avenue

OCT 27 1985

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

One of Terre Haute's leading businessmen and builders, John Hughes O'Boyle (1812-1882), was born in Frederick County, Va.

Following the custom of poor families in those days, young John was "bound out" at the age of 12 to a tanner in the neighborhood. His apprenticeship to learn the leather tanning trade from Samuel Hammack was for eight years and eight months. At the end of this period he received $100 and a horse as pay.

In 1836 John came "out west" to Indiana, locating first at Middletown (now Prairie Creek) in Vigo County. Two years later he moved to Merom in Sullivan County. Here he opened a general store on the bluff, dealing in everything from feed to calico, molasses, paint and whiskey. In addition, he loaded flatboats with pork, corn, etc., and sent them downriver to New Orleans. He made several trips himself, returning to Merom by stagecoach.

In 1850 he traveled to Terre Haute where he operated a wholesale leather and hide store. By 1857 he went into business for himself, progressing slowly but steadily as the town progressed.

O'Boyle had purchased an acre of ground in Terre Haute located between Fifth and Sixth streets and Oak and Wilson streets. He had traveled horseback to Decatur, Ill., in 1853 to buy this property from its owner with gold, which he carried in his saddlebags.

He lived in this property facing Fifth Street for a number of years. In 1863 he built a brick homestead at 525 S. Sixth St., which was sold and torn down before the Wabash Apartments were built.

In 1865 O'Boyle bought out his competitor, George Kerkhoff, so he could control the tanneries at Riley and Bowling Green. He hauled rough leather from these tanneries to his Terre Haute store. There the leather was finished and sold to shoemakers and harnessmakers. There were three separate trades in the leather game in those days — the harnessmaker, saddlemaker and the horse-collar maker.

Believing firmly in education, although he had attended school for only six months during his childhood, O'Boyle was a self-educated man, wrote a good hand, kept his own books and kept well-posted in business law. He served as a school trustee for several years, and as treasurer of the board without pay. The teachers came to his store for their monthly pay checks.

In 1858 the firm of O'Boyle & Burnett was located at 11 N. Fourth St., two doors south of the post office. One of their advertising circulars stated a fresh supply of French calf and kip skins ranging from 20 to 70 pounds had just been received from New York. They offered the best slaughter Spanish and oak sole, shoe findings and linings, harness, skirting, uppers, country kip, calf and pad skins.

Some time later O'Boyle bought out his former partner, and the business carried his name only. In addition to the above-mentioned goods, he advertised "best quality tanner's oil and tools, every article needed by shoemakers, tanners and harnessmakers." He also bought hides, furs and peltries.

When O'Boyle died in 1882 his firm had become one of the largest wholesale and retail businesses in the city. He was a director of the Terre Haute Savings Bank, the National State Bank and the Rose Orphan Home. He built and owned 618 Wabash Ave. With Chauncey Rose he had built next door what was known as the Marble Block, 620-628 Wabash Ave. With Levi Warren he built several other downtown buildings and warehouses.

Another Terre Haute leatherman was John Zachman. He was born in 1874 on a farm near McLeansboro, Ill. He attended a church school two miles from his home. When he was 16, his parents apprenticed him to his brother-in-law, John E. Aydt, a harnessmaker at McLeansboro, for three years to learn the trade without salary.

The first year he received room and board and $25; the second year $50; the third year $75. He continued this arrangement for nearly 16 years.

Zachman had never ridden in a buggy until he was 12, and was 16 before he rode on a train. He saw the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, and worked at his trade in Taylorville and Cairo, Ill. He was employed at Indianapolis before coming to Terre Haute in 1913 to work for John Rubsch at 24 N. Fourth St.

At that time there were only four other harness shops in Terre Haute: Frank Buckingham, 22 S. Sixth St.; Theodore Jumper, 9½ S. Fourth St.; and two locations for C. Fisbeck, 212 Wabash Ave. and 21 S. Fourth St. Two years later in 1915 Zachman purchased the Rubsch shop.

The invention of the automobile caused the decline of the harness trade, but farm horses and riding horses still needed harness. Then more and better farm machinery became available and horse-drawn equipment declined on the farm.

By 1920 there were only three harness shops in town: Fisbeck's, Froeb Brothers and Zachman's. They had turned to making dog collars and other leather items to stay in business.

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Community Affairs File

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Bankers, businessmen, journalists aided in Terre Haute's early growth

Biography (Collective) - Clark, Dorothy

TS APR 03 1988

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Today's column continues the brief biographies of those persons who contributed to Terre Haute in many ways over the past years.

Benjamin G. Cox (1847-1898) was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Terre Haute. Born in Cincinnati, he came to this city in 1867 and entered the grocery establishment of Cox & Sons which had been founded by his father, Robert Cox. Later the grocery houses of Hulman & Cox consolidated and became one of the leading firms in the Midwest. He married Elizabeth Naylor, daughter of Wilson Naylor. One of their four children, W.N. Cox, became president of Terre Haute National Bank.

Wilson Naylor was born in 1828 in Ohio of English parents. The family came to Eugene, Vermillion County, in 1831. His education was limited, but as a teen-ager he worked on flatboats and made 15 trips down the Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. Later he made the trips downriver on steamboats. For 22 years he conducted a successful dry goods store. In 1864 he opened a store at Fourth and Ohio in Terre Haute. In 1882 he bought the Terre Haute Opera House and changed its name to Naylor Opera House. He managed it until his death, and his estate managed it until the house was destroyed by fire in 1896.

Peter J. Ryan (1844-1908) was born in Ireland, coming to America at the age of 7. His mother died on the voyage, and his father died soon after arriving here. Left an orphan, he was sent to an aunt in Dayton, Ohio. He came to Terre Haute in 1856 to serve as an apprentice in a harness shop until he entered the army in the Civil War. He was one of the few men to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor during that conflict. He returned to Terre Haute to become a manufacturer and dealer in harness until 1875 when he sold out and took up the livery business before becoming a funeral director, later turning the business over to his sons, Frank and Charles, when his health began to fail.

Adolph Herz (1843-1917) was for many years a prominent citizen and a leading downtown merchant of Terre Haute. He was born in Schwabish Hall, Wurtemburg, Germany. He came to the United States in 1866 and to Terre Haute in 1867. He entered the business of Joseph Erlanger, merchant tailor, and in 1869 opened his own store on South Fourth between Wabash and Ohio called the Herz Bazaar. The store moved several times as business grew and eventually the new building on the north side of Wabash between Sixth-and-a-half and Seventh Streets was built. He was in business nearly 50 years, active in community affairs until his death.

Demas Deming Jr. (1841-1922) was the son of Demas Deming Sr., who came to Terre Haute from Connecticut in 1818. He was the eighth in the line of descent from John Deming who settled in Connecticut in 1641. Demas Jr. was born at the northwest corner of First and Ohio streets. Two years later his parents built a frame house on the southwest corner of Sixth and Walnut streets. A later Deming home was built at Sixth and Poplar streets. At the age of 16 he worked in the bank of McKeen & Tousey, which later became McKeen & Deming, and in 1868 became president of the First National Bank. At the age of 27 he was called the "boy banker." His success was attributed to Chauncey Rose who did business with him and gave him prestige. The Rose and Deming families were neighbors in Wethersfield, Conn. He built the Deming Hotel, was head of the Deming Land Co., and was generous to all local charities, schools and churches. He gave Deming Park and Deming Boulevard to the city.

Thomas H. Blake (1792-1849) was born in Maryland, the son of a doctor. One brother became a doctor, the other an army officer, but he chose the law profession. Following service in the War of 1812, he traveled to Kentucky, Vincennes, and on to Fort Harrison. Early records show he became a lawyer in Terre Haute and became prominent in public affairs. He served as the first president judge here, and was elected to the state Legislature in 1824, where he introduced the first bill relating to the Wabash & Erie Canal, a project to which he would devote much of his later life. Blake died in Cincinnati on his way home from Washington, D.C. His remains were sent here for burial.

William Creighton Ball (1846-1922) was a journalist for more than 30 years in Terre Haute. Born at the corner of Seventh and Cherry streets, he was the son of William J. Ball, engineer for the Wabash and & Erie Canal here from 1840 to 1874. William C. attended Indiana University and Amherst College and taught three years in the St. Louis high school while he studied law. He returned to Terre Haute to practice, but the following year became a journalist and later editor and proprietor with John S. Dickerson and later his brother, Spencer F. Ball, until 1904 when he retired. His residence was at 1138 S. Fifth St.

Spencer F. Ball (1856-1917) also a son of William J. Ball, was associated with his brother, William C. Ball, in publishing the Terre Haute Gazette. He graduated from Terre Haute High School and became the bookkeeper for the newspaper, retiring in 1904 when they sold the paper and it became the Terre Haute Tribune. He was active in the Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA, and fund-raising for World War I. He gave the land for the present Spencer F. Ball Park.

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Clark, Dorothy

The story of A.L. Schultz, baker

TS AUG 10 1988

Family stories of early Terre Haute and the Wabash Valley are always received with great interest. Some times only family members can tell it like it was, not like someone else imagined it might have been.

When August Ludwig Schultz arrived in Terre Haute in 1871 or 1872, there were already six bakers and confectioners listed in the city directory. There were J. Elliott, on the east side of Fourth between Main and Cherry Streets; August Eiser, at the southwest corner of Ninth and Main Streets; F. Feidler, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Lafayette; A. Gerhard, at the southeast corner of Fourth and Cherry; Frenk Heinig & Brother, on the west side of Lafayette between the Alton and Vandalia railroads; and W. H. Sage, 119 Main St.

As was the case of so many German immigrants, A. L. Schultz had served in the 1866 war of Austrian Succession, and because of Germany's universal military training, could expect to be involved in another war soon. To escape this hopeless future was the reason many young Germans came to America to seek a better life and more secure future.

In 1874 the city directory listed "A. Ludwig Schultz, baker, southwest corner Third and Sheets." Sheets was the early name for Crawford Street from First east to Third. Schultz' residence was in the same building, and Lewis Schultz, his son, worked for him.

By 1887, A. L. Schultz had moved his residence and bakery from 713 S. Third St. to 911 Chestnut St. In 1892 his son had taken over the bakery at 207 Ohio, but lived with the family. In 1896, A. L. had again taken over management of the bakery and remained its head until his death four years later.

It was Arthur R. Sontag, local resident, who helped fill in the gaps on the Schultz family. A. L. was his grandfather. He was born on the third floor of the bakery at 207 Ohio Street in 1897.

Sontag deplored "the passing of so many old landmarks from the scenery around Terre Haute" which reminded senior citizens of past events that occurred here.

His letter spoke of the razing of the Union Station, the Grand Opera House and the Filbeck Hotel which brought back memories to him of earlier days. But the removal of buildings in the southwest area of the city brought back memories of a more personal nature, happenings remembered only by individuals or small family groups.

He referred to the so-called Bell Bakery building, sometimes referred to as the Fitzgerald Bakery at 207 Ohio St. Because this was his birthplace, he naturally always thought of the building as the Schultz Bakery owned by his grandfather.

When the family bakery was at 911 Chestnut, his mother, formerly Agnes Schultz, would often go to help do the work. She would take along her three children, Arthur, William and Clara, to spend the day. They would travel to the bakery on a horse car. The first electric streetcar had been operating on a more or less experimental basis. His mother would always refuse to give in to the demands of the children that they wait for the electric car on the grounds that it was too dangerous.

In the building on Ohio Street, Schultz's Bakery produced the finest wedding cakes. Arthur's grandmother boasted that "for 40 years my husband has been a baker."

In those days, baking was done with wood in an oven built of brick in a furnace at the side of the oven, the flames from which spread directly on the hearth. The fire was then allowed to die out and the baking proceeded.

According to Sontag, wagon loads of wood were displayed for sale somewhere near the courthouse, and it was told that his grandmother sometimes bought a load for a dollar. Being economy-minded, she would then ride along with the driver to make sure he might not be tempted to pass his home and drop off a few pieces for his personal use before making delivery at the bakery.

Sontag's father, Henry, was not a baker. He was a carpenter. The original spelling was Sonntag. Henry's oldest son, William, perpetuated the Schultz Bakery, having served his apprenticeship before his grandfather's death in 1900.

The business moved to 208 S. Fourth about 1902. The store front bore the sign: "Star Bakery — Two loaves of fresh bread 5 cents." Family photos bear this out. By 1912 the oven there was in such bad shape, the family looked for a new location.

Following the tragic death of Charles Bertram in a fire, a completely equipped building at 616 S. Third was available. In this plant "Daisy Bread" was produced for several years.

In the Depression years, the bakery closed. William Sontag died in 1942. From 1935 to 1955, Arthur Sontag became distributor for a line of bakery products with the brand name "Farm Crest." From 1955 until retirement, Arthur was employed at Paitson Hardware Co.

He remembered Memorial Hall when it was the junk store known as the "Old Curiosity Shop," and its neighbor, Meissel's Grocery. Other trade names of breads sold at the old bakery building under different ownerships were Fitzgeralds, Bell and Dandee.

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
Community Affairs File

The legacy of Chauncey Rose

Leading local benefactor gave wisely, generously

Ts DEC 23 1990

Clarke, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Chauncey Rose, philanthropist and leading citizen of Terre Haute, was born on Christmas Eve, 1794, in Wethersfield, Conn.

Christmas is a time of gift-giving, and Rose lived up to this tradition. All his life he gave gifts — to his friends, to his fellow citizens, to his city, his state and his country.

He founded schools of higher learning, homes for orphans, for indigent elderly ladies, and supported all churches.

Chauncey Rose bought and sold land, building a financial empire in the Midwest. He founded railroads, and built the hotel on the prairie when no one dreamed the town would expand to enclose it.

The youngest son of a family of eight children, seven boys and one girl, Rose had to become self-reliant. His father, John Rose, was the son of John Rose Sr., who emigrated to America from the Highlands of Scotland in the early 1700s. Later generations inherited frugality from this family background. Chauncey valued every penny he ever earned or gave away.

He also inherited good health and long life from his father, who lived to be 72, and his mother, Mary Warner Rose, who lived to be 80. Chauncey outlived his brothers and sister, all of whom died childless.

Two of the brothers, George and John, were highly successful in business. They dealt in the East India trade from Charleston, S.C. John later made another fortune as a cotton broker, and added to it on Wall Street. He left $1.5 million to charity, which Chauncey had to rescue in a six-year legal battle with the courts. He paid for the court action necessary to guarantee the money would go to the charities his brother had designated in his will.

Chauncey's fortune began with a public school education and savings of some $2,000 that he brought west in 1817. A careful planner, he studied the entire central United States before settling. First to Kentucky, then Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee and Alabama, Rose traveled on horseback before finally choosing Terre Haute in 1818.

He lived at Fort Harrison for awhile, because there were only two log cabins at Terre Haute, the city that had just been staked out in 1816. There were no direct roads to anywhere, and travel was by river. To go east, you went via Louisville.

None of this daunted the enthusiasm of Rose's visions. He moved over into Parke County in 1819, built a dam and started a saw mill. He did all the work himself, and worked many long hours. The little village of Roseville began to grow.

By 1822, the first steamboats began bringing in new residents, and he was furnishing the lumber for new homes and for the first courthouse at Terre Haute. Things were booming in 1825, and he moved back to Terre Haute.

This time he became a merchant and his fortune was growing. He invested in land and in farming and prospered. In 1837 he pulled the biggest real estate deal in the history of Terre Haute by acquiring 320 acres of what is now the central city for about $3,400. It staggers the imagination to guess his return of this investment as the town grew.

Obviously Rose saw the prospects for Terre Haute in 1818, and he worked to make his dreams come true. He outlined his plans to build the city until his death in 1877. His efforts also helped the Rose fortune to grow. In fact, one would find it hard to show that he was not the brains of the city in those early years.

It was Rose who put Terre Haute in the Indiana railroad picture very early. He was the principal in the building of the Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad that carried new fortune to the city and another fortune to Rose.

His home at the northeast corner of Seventh and Chestnut streets was not pretentious. Although called a mansion, it was a large, Victorian house with a broad veranda across the front under a pillared flat roof that blended back into the double-peak roof of the frame house.

A large, grassy orchard, nearly a block in size, gave it an ideal setting. Inside the east wing was headquarters, because Rose's bedroom and small adjoining library were there. Business meetings were conducted in the small library, the financial hub of business in the area whose spokes reached into the highest circles of Indiana and national business.

Rose looked like a "Railroad King" when he was sitting at his desk, but the illusion was gone when you saw him sweeping his own sidewalks. He never hesitated to do his own chores and never worried about his social image. He never married.

As he grew older, he became the sole survivor of his family, with millions to leave to no kin. In fact, this fortune was a burden to protect from thieves, cheats and bums.

He spent his remaining years wisely disposing of his wealth. The wisest and most reputable agents were retained to find worthwhile causes and projects for his money. It sounds very much like a great fiction plot shown on television some years back.

Some 85 different charities received sums from $500 to $300,000 according to one listing of Rose gifts. He made major contributions to Wabash College, the New York Newsboys Fund, Rose Orphan's Home, Providence Hospital, libraries, churches, etc., but his crowning gift was Rose Polytechnic, forerunner of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. To this project he gave more than money. He brought in great educators, business leaders and statesmen to not only plan the school but to outline its policies.

The really interesting part of this giving is that it was just as well planned as the business ventures he used to produce the money. Rose was an objective man who gave to those who were workers and producers. He cared nothing for drones, except those who were invalids without choice.

Rose loaned money to many people, but he expected it to be paid back. He might take action if it were not. Yet, he might give the money back to the borrower after it was paid back to him.

Chauncey Rose was indeed a leading benefactor. He should be remembered on his 196th birthday.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Cleaning up

#Clark, Dorothy

Immigrant makes fortune in new business in Terre Haute

OCT 27 1991

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

James Hunter, a prominent citizen of Terre Haute, was killed instantly when he was struck by an east-bound Brazil interurban car at the Country Club Station east of the city. His extreme deafness caused him not to hear the approaching car as he walked across the tracks.

The entire city mourned his untimely death in 1907. His obituary contained much biographical information as well as information about the early laundries here.

Hunter was born in 1851 at Portrush in northern Ireland. He belonged to a sturdy and strict Presbyterian family who had settled there a century before.

Portrush was a popular watering place in the days when Hunter was growing up and attending school. At the time of his death, his large family of six sisters and two brothers and his elderly mother still lived at Portrush.

In 1869, when he was 18 years old, Hunter left Ireland and came to Indianapolis where he entered the Trade Palace, the leading store of that city owned by the Glenn family, neighors and old friends of the Hunter family in Ireland.

Hunter came to Terre Haute in 1872 to make his own way and begin a career which won prosperity. A handsome, bright and genial youth of 21 years, he soon made friends and attracted patronage.

In company with a Mr. McGuire, who soon retired, Hunter engaged in a men's furnishing store, a line of business which then was new to Terre Haute.

Located at 523 Main St., the store was one room, 22 feet by 140 feet, with a basement and 30 feet of the second floor. In addition to a fine line of gent's furnishings, his specialty was the manufacture of shirts.

In 1877 he introduced another new feature in town trade by establishing the Troy Laundry in connection with his business. It developed so rapidly that he started an independent laundry in a very small way in a room back of his store.

He spent about $2,000 to fit this room up for perfect work. A handsome horse and vehicle were acquired to gather up and return goods from the laundry. At this time, his payroll numbered 17 employees.

Again he was so successful he took over the large Dowling Hall on North Sixth Street, formerly Terre Haute's theater and opera house, and converted it into a first-class laundry. Agencies were established in Illinois as far west as the Mississippi River and in Indiana down to the Ohio River.

Hunter moved the laundry once more, making what then was considered a very bold move by purchasing the fine property at the northeast corner of Sixth and Cherry streets on which he built a large brick building, two stories high, 142 feet deep, for his laundry business and a number of storerooms.

This was in 1897, and in a short time he had taken over the rented store rooms and occupied the entire block, more than fulfilling his expectations.

From 1874 to 1884, the city directories listed few laundries. The very first here was in 1874 when a Chinaman named Wah Hong (or Hong Wah) located on the west side of Second Street north of Main Street. Two years later, he was still the only laundry owner listed, but his name was spelled "Hung Wah," and he had moved to the west side of Sixth Street south of Main.

In 1877, he was listed as "Wah Hong, 23 S. S Sixth, residence same," and he was still the only Terre Hautean in the laundry business.

In 1878 there were four laundries listed: Hunter, 523 Main; F.E. Town & Co., 509 Ohio; Wah Ling, 23 S. Sixth; and Wah Sam, 13 N. Third and Fourth.

In 1880, Hunter's Troy Laundry and Wah Ling were listed. The next year, Burton & Burns, 527 Main, had been added. Then in 1884 there were three: Samuel A. Fuller, 677½ Main, operated the Star Laundry; Hunter; and Wah Ning, who lived and operated his laundry under 23 S. Sixth.

A pioneer in the local laundry business, Hunter created a new industry in which others have followed. After enlarging his laundry, he sold out his retail business in which J.R. Paddock was a partner for a time, to Martin & Scott, and they sold to Weinstein Brothers.

In 1876, Hunter married Charlotte Smith, daughter of G. Foster Smith, another pioneer merchant of Terre Haute. Their children were Jane Hunter, who married Alphonse L. Drum, and Eunice Hunter, who married J. Peyton Clark. Both young men were connected with the Terre Haute Traction Co.

In 1881, the Hunter family moved into their home at 447 N. Seventh St.

His untimely death at the age of 56 was a great loss to the community. It was said of him, "He lived and died without having made an enemy."

Community Affairs File

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Theatrical flair

*Clark, Dorothy

Early resident's life adds color to theaters, neighborhood

TS NOV 10 1991

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Some time ago, I promised to write one or two more columns on the subject of T.W. Barhydt Jr., who did more for theater in Terre Haute than any other person. He shook the town up and caused it to change its thinking on many things. He created excitement with his own enthusiasm and could inspire others to get out of their rut.

Although he was a citizen of Quincy, Iowa, and a nephew of T.W. Barhydt, who was the president of the Merchants National Bank, Burlington, Iowa, little is known about T.W. Barhydt Jr.'s parents and early years.

He began his theatrical career in Burlington in June 1891, when, with F.W. Chamberlin, he leased the Grand Opera House there. At that time he was a clerk in his uncle's bank. Two years later he resigned his bank job and formed the firm of Chamberlin, Barhydt & Co. In addition to leasing the theater, the following year he leased the Grand Opera House at Ottumwa and the one at Davenport.

In 1894 he leased the Grand Opera House at Peoria, as well as the Empire Theater of Quincy, with his headquarters at Peoria until June 1897. S.B. Harrington of Burlington purchased Barhydt's stock in the company, and the firm changed to Chamberlin-Harrington Co.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

In October 1897, Barhydt went to Terre Haute where he had taken a lease on the Grand Opera House which he conducted until June 1, 1913. He promoted the Lyric vaudeville house. Two years later he promoted the Varieties Theater, a much larger house, and vaudeville was moved from the Lyric to the Varieties, with the Lyric reverting to moving pictures in 1914.

The vaudeville business quickly outgrew the capacity of the Varieties, so he promoted the Hippodrome, owned and operated by the Hippodrome Amusement Co., of which Barhydt was president. This theater was considered one of the finest vaudeville theaters in the United States.

From Oct. 20, 1884, to Jan. 1, 1886, he sold boots and shoes wholesale for T.W. Barhydt & Co., before entering the bank four days later. While he was in Quincy, he met Miss Henrietta Schultheis, a wealthy young lady, and married her Oct. 23, 1897.

After their honeymoon trip, they came back to Terre Haute to work on plans for the Grand Opera House. They lived in an apartment in the Terre Haute House, the one before the present building.

In February 1905, they purchased the Horace Smith residence on South Sixth Street. Smith had bought ground at the corner of Sixth and Putnam streets, and construction of their new residence began immediately to be ready for occupancy about Sept. 1, 1905.

In September 1909, the Barhydts returned to Terre Haute from an extensive tour of Europe. Their neighbors back of their home at 1105 S. Sixth St. had been

enjoying the beautiful view of the mass of pink roses.

This "Dorothy Perkins" rose was trained over a wire arch in the back yard, along with another on the fence between the back yards of James P. Stunkard and F.D. Harvey. Mrs. Stunkard had purchased her rose in 1905 at Root's Store for 15 cents, a "flyer" bargain.

Barhydt's home was well guarded by Bunie Porter and a hedge to save the fine Alberta peaches from small boys. Before 1908 it was the fashion to cut up front yards with several small flower beds, which, after blooming, left scraggly-looking plants. These were eliminated and the bare ground cultivated into lawns.

New shrubbery was being planted to bring color past the season. Experts suggested placing blooming plants along the outline of porches and in the angles of the house, arranging them to keep a constant succession of color.

First there were tulips, narcissus, geraniums, fever-few, daisies, begonias, with dahlias and salvia for late fall. Terre Hauteans were urged to visit the Rea and Deming school yards for ideas about how to better plant their yards.

A Chicago landscape gardener drew the plans for the planting, never in straight lines, but following angles and curves. The flower beds of Wiley High School were blooming with early tulips to golden-glow in the fall.

In April 1921, Barhydt paid a record price for a homesite. He bought the Milton E. Herz property, 1200 block South Sixth Street, and planned to build a home there in the summer on the vacant lot. Ben Pfister, realtor, completed the deal and said it was the highest price ever paid in Terre Haute for a lot for building purposes, more than $152 per foot for a lot of 115 foot frontage, a total of $17,500.

The home he planned to build would probably cost more than $60,000. John Eberson, architect for the Indiana Theater, etc., was in charge. The lot was part of the estate of William C. and Spencer Ball, and vacant at that time.

In October 1921, mayor-elect Ora D. Davis was planning to move from 603 S. Seventh St. to the home occupied by Barhydt, 1105 S. Sixth St. Terre Haute had been considered backward in not building houses in keeping with the means of families, so the process was finally started. Bruce Bement was building on South Fifth Street. Will Freeman and Barhydt were building on South Sixth.

Mayor-elect Davis celebrated winning the election by moving his wife into her new home, formerly the handsome Barhydt residence on the west side of South Sixth, south of College Avenue. The Barhydts took the Horace M. Smith home at 608 Putnam Ave., while Mrs. Smith was in California.

Plans for the home by Eberson were Flemish design. The stone and brick house, two stories high, with a rainbow tile roof, no porches, and striking design for the front, was to be unique, with elaborate interior woodwork, according to the Shumaker contracting firm.

Barhydt purchased the lot immediately south of the residence of Dr. Rudolph J. Young, 1115 S. Sixth.

The new house was the first in town at whose windows were hung blue shutters. The roof was red and blue. Out on the National Road, Ernestine Meyers' home was white with blue shutters.

Irish businessmen had big impact on city

TS JUN 14 1992

Samuel Crawford (1803-1857) was born in Ulster, Ireland, on the banks of bright Lough Neagh. When the family visited Ireland in later years, it was shown the farm from which the family came.

Lough Neagh is not very large, but it was the largest lake in Great Britain.

An older brother, John Crawford, came to Terre Haute, and Samuel followed him. They were in business as John and Samuel Crawford and died not many months apart.

Described as an urbane and elegant gentleman, Crawford came to Terre Haute in 1828, at the age of 25. His name was carried on by his grandson, Samuel Crawford McKeen. His surviving son, Major Frank Crawford, was paymaster of the Vandalia Railroad.

Samuel Crawford was described as "a very likeable man though quiet and sedate, essentially a man of business."

He was married in 1831 to a daughter of Francis Cunningham, the early innkeeper and postmaster of Terre Haute. When the town was incorporated in 1832, Crawford was appointed treasurer by the town trustees, and was later elected to the same office.

In those early days, everyone was expected to be a volunteer firefighter. When the town bought its first engine in 1832 and fire companies were organized, Samuel Crawford was chosen captain of the first fire company.

Serving with him were Jacob D. Early, Thomas Parsons, Joseph O. Jones, D.S. Danaldson, James Farrington, Thomas Dowling and Alexander McGregor.

In the hook and ladder company, John Crawford was a ladderman, Zenas Smith, a ropeman, and T.A. Madison, the foreman.

In the company of fire guards were Demas Deming, captain, and Chauncey Rose, fourth assistant.

Crawford was on the first board of directors of the local branch of the old State Bank of Indiana (Memorial Hall building). He also was the first president of the Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad, from the time it was completed in 1852 until he died in 1857. Chauncey Rose, who was president during construction, resigned when that part of the work was done.

Crawford's sudden death created a sensation in Terre Haute. A tribute printed in the Wabash Express stated: "As a businessman, Mr. Crawford had no superiors in this country. He was exact, almost to a proverb, demanding however, only that which was of right his due and giving that which belonged to his neighbor."

Crawford's exact and systematic methods were revealed in 1890 when the cornerstone of the old courthouse was removed. In it were found an elaborate record of Terre Haute statistics compiled by Crawford in 1843 and deposited that year under the cornerstone of the old town hall, where it had been removed to the corner block of the courthouse, afterward destroyed.

The records were nearly 50 years old when they were opened, elegantly written with a quill pen on a large card and containing information of municipal affairs, population, prices, etc., which would take up at least two newspaper columns to list.

When Crawford was town treasurer, he guarded the annual municipal revenue of $1,200. He could not have imagined the changes between his presidency of the T.H.& I. and that of his son-in-law, W.R. McKeen, as president of the Vandalia Railroad.

Condit's book, "History of Early Terre Haute," speaks of the Crawford brothers as "deserving of honorable mention for being model business men." Their store on the west side of the public square certainly was well-kept and a money-maker, and their varied activities in the support of the little town were long remembered, but Samuel was especially long remembered for the detailed map of Terre Haute he drew in 1831. This map showed the original in-lots and out-lots of the little town begun in 1816.

Crawford's map showed the in-lots laid out in 1831, extending from the Wabash River to Fifth Street, north as far as Eagle Street, and south to Oak Street.

His map shows no subdivided lots east of Fifth, while the out-lots or blocks are platted to Seventh Street only, at that time called the county road. The town was built at that time west of Fourth Street.

The map shows the old courthouse, Asbury Chapel at the corner of Fourth and Poplar, the seminary lots on the corner of Fourth and Mulberry, and the burying ground known as Old Indian Orchard on the Wabash River bank just south of where the Vandalia Railroad was later.

The prairie line, at that time, was in the alley in the rear of the old Gazette office. The tree line extended north and south from this point, curving to the east slightly, in both directions, reaching to Sixth at Oak and Eagle and then curving again toward the river. All east of this curving line to the bluffs east was unbroken prairie.

Samuel Crawford was instrumental in inviting Senator Henry Clay here to make a speech in 1831. A cavalcade of some 200 Terre Hauteans met him on the road west and escorted him across the ferry to town. The town's first cannon roared, and Old Glory flew from the courthouse.

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Community Affairs File

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Rich heritage

A Clark, Dorothy

Terre Haute owes great deal to Chauncey Rose

15 JUL 03 1992

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

When Chauncey Rose first saw Terre Haute, he was not a rich man. But neither was he considered poor in those early days. He saw a small village of less than 200 people, a dozen or two houses, and two or three small stores.

Many years later he said the town had no place where he could eat or sleep, so he went to Fort Harrison for room and board.

As a matter of fact, the Eagle & Lion tavern at the southeast corner of First and Wabash had been open for business for a year.

On the Fourth of July, 1817, a grand celebration was staged there, even though the doors and windows had not been installed.

Two months later, when Lucius H. Scott first saw the town, he stayed at the inn. He later told of its furnishings and the meals served there at that early time.

Chauncey Rose went on north to found a town on Raccoon Creek in what is now Parke County. He called it Roseville, but it later was named Coxville. Here he built a dam, standing in water and working long hours with the hired hands.

He stayed there nearly five years before surrendering to the more attractive town of Terre Haute. Possibly the reason he left was because he was defeated for a minor political office. It was Roseville's loss, and Terre Haute's gain.

He opened a primitive store in Terre Haute, invested wisely in land and other opportunities. Little is known of his early activities until he appeared at the sheriff's sale of Abraham Markle's property in 1833, property on which Frederick Rapp had foreclosed the mortgage.

On June 3, 1816, Major Markle had entered for himself the half section on which he built his mill over Otter Creek. On the same day he was refused the right to lay his land a warrant No. 1 on the site of Fort Harrison where he intended to build a town.

Out of this attempt to take over the government land of the fort grew, in time, a long drawn out dispute with Major John T. Chunn, who was in charge of the army post, a controversy that finally resulted in Chunn challenging Markle to fight a duel. Markle refused, and Captain Cass also delivered a challenge in his own name.

The matter resulted in numerous court cases and finally the dismissal of the charges, as all parties were members of the Masonic Lodge.

On the same day that Markle chose his own lands, he entereed over 2,000 acres for men who had been in his command. On July 12, he entered land for his partner, Col. Caleb Hopkins, assignee of Henry Follett, the 320 acres lying between the present Seventh and 13th streets, from Poplar to Locust. For this Rose paid a total of $3,300.

In the following 20 years, the National Road, the Wabash & Erie Canal, and the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad were built through these lands. Rose built and operated the Prairie House on the site of the present Terre Haute House.

From one of these sales he received in May 1852, $10,415 for a part of the land of the railroad. While it was payable in stock, it indeed was a nice return on the original investment.

Another million dollars or so came from the sale of lots in his various subdivisions that grew out of his original purchase.

A shrewd investor in later days, there was a certain element of luck in many instances. He might have foreseen the coming of the National Road, but it is unlikely he knew the canal would run through his cornfield for nearly half a mile, nor have thought of the day when his own railroad that he had promoted and the beginnings of the C.&.E.I. would create new wealth for him. He could not have dreamed that single town lots would bring more than the broad acres cost him.

There were other interests, too, that helped him. As a stockholder in the State Bank Branch on Ohio Street, he could, along with others, borrow what he needed. In the days when the bank had only to issue its own notes to prove funds for investment, there always was a source of ready money for him.

Rose had a finger in many pies. He and his brothers and his sister's husband, Israel Williams, were interested in mercantile pursuits. Even in the prosperous flatboat and packing establishments he had money that made money over again.

Paul Dresser's father ran a woolen mill at Sullivan that was in the name of Merrick A. Jewett, a long-time Congregational minister here. But the records show that it was Rose money that bought the land, erected the mill and operated it almost to its last day.

The first attempt to complete a railroad from here to St. Louis by way of Marshall, Ill., and Springfield saw him associated with Ninian Edwards and Abraham Lincoln as well as some local people, including John P. Usher who built the house on Ohio Street occupied so long by Herman Hulman.

In other matters, he furnished the money to the contractors who built the canal and the railroads, and he was an active worker in other lines.

More often than not he was not mentioned as part of the organization. He had several hard battles in the courts to protect his property and interests, and he usually won. His few thousands grew like the proverbial snowball.

Unlike many others who made money and could not take it with them, Chauncey Rose was a generous giver during his lifetime, and he was the last of his race, so Terre Haute received a rich heritage from him.

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Industrial pioneer worked here

Crawford built Wabash rolling mill and blast furnaces

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Clark Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

I'm indebted to John G. Morey for photocopies of pages from an 1890s book of Pennsylvania history. His alertness in recognizing a local businessman's photo of 1885 and the accompanying information adds to our knowledge of a prominent Terre Hautean.

In the fall of 1850 it became necessary to prove claims to the iron deposits near Lake Superior. Half interest in this enormous deposit became the property of the Marquette Iron Co. Ironmakers from Pennsylvania and Ohio were attracted to this area as its fame began to spread.

The most prominent of these practical ironmakers was Alexander L. Crawford of New Castle, Pa., who as early as 1849 ordered 10 tons of the ore sent to New Castle for testing purposes.

Ten tons was only the grab of a clam-shell bucket in 1890, but at that time it was a considerable order, and it was the summer of 1850 before the ore was actually transported from Marquette, being brought down from the Jackson mine during the preceding winter on sleds.

Crawford used part of this ore for puddler's fix in his rolling mill at New Castle, and the rest was used in Wick's rolling mill at Youngstown for the same purpose. In both cases it was found to be quite satisfactory. This was the first real shipment of ore from the peninsula, except what had been carried out on the backs of the original discoverers.

One of the most remarkable men of this time, Alexander L. Crawford was a very active businessman, the ruling spirit in a number of enterprises that would be considered very important later.

He was born in 1815 near Norristown, Montgomery County, Pa. He came of old Irish stock, his maternal great-grandfather having emigrated to America from Ireland after 1720, and settled in Norristown where his grandfather and father were born. Their home had been in the Crawford family for nearly a century.

Both Andrew and Elizabeth Crawford, Alexander's parents, were Montgomery County natives. Andrew ran the extensive farm and lime-kiln business. Alexander worked on the farm until 1834 when he took charge of the lime-kiln interests of his father's estate, employing 50 men and burning about a thousand bushels per day for three years.

He sold the business before his marriage to Mary R. List, also of Montgomery County, and went into farming until 1841 when he sold his farm and moved to New Castle.

With his brother, J.M. Crawford, and George K. Ritter, Crawford bought the first rolling mill in New Castle built in 1839 by James D. White. In 1850 the Cosala Iron Co. was organized with A.L. as president. It was this mill that used the first shipment of ore from Lake Superior County.

In 1864 money was plentiful and everybody wanted to invest in his substantial businesses. Crawford was shrewd enough to see that this was the time to turn his capital at a profit, and sold out at "war prices."

In 1842 he had acquired the Springfield furnace, and made charcoal iron for the use of the rolling mill. In 1847 he built the Tremont blast furnace near New Wilmington, Pa., which he sold 10 years later.

In 1853 he bought the Mafoning furnace at Lowellsville, Ohio. He built a railroad two miles to the coal mines to cheapen the cost of coal used in the furnace.

After running the furnace for a month, he blew it out and made many improvements. By bringing gas down from the tunnel head to the boilers and hot blast, he was able to save $30 a day. This was the first furnace run in the United States with gas, successfully, with boilers and hot blast located on the ground.

This method increased the quantity of iron per week from 35 tons to 85 tons, with the same quantity of blast.

He sold this furnace in 1864 at a good price. In 1868 he built two Etna furnaces at New Castle, sold them in 1872 when iron was high, and gave the owners for four years' interest 150 percent besides their original capital.

In 1872-74 he built two blast furnaces in Terre Haute, one of which later moved to Gadsden, Ala. In 1876 he built the Sligo furnaces in Dent County, Mo., which were still making 50 tons of charcoal iron daily in the 1890s.

In 1875 he built the Wabash rolling mill at Terre Haute and established the Vigo Iron Co. In 1884 Crawford bought the Neshannock furnace in New Castle and increased the output from 750 tons to 1,300 tons per week of Bessemer pig iron.

As early as 1855 he had sunk the first coal shaft in Mercer County, Pa., in the block coal, which works raw in the furnace. In 1866 he sank the first coal shaft in the block coal in Clay County.

Crawford made his first attempt at railroading at the age of 19 when he put in the first switch ever applied up to that time, 1834, for switching a car or cars from the main track. The practice before that was to have a turntable, turn them by hand, and run them one at a time, out at right angles with the main track.

There were at that time just four locomotives in use in the United States. The Philadelphia, Germantown & Norristown Railroad had the first one built by Baldwin, and called the "Ironsides." It only weighed 12 tons, and had no cab, so that the company advertised that on pleasant days the locomotive would pull the cars, but on rainy days the horse cars would run as usual.

Since that period, Crawford had built the New Castle & Franklin Railroad, and a number of short coal roads, while assisting to build the Youngstown & Ashtabula Railroad, the Lawrence Railroad, the St. Louis, Salem & Little Rock, the New Castle & Beaver Valley, and the Nashville & Knoxville Railroad in Tennessee.

One hundred miles of this latter road extended from Lebanon to the block coal fields of Overton County, the largest fields of that kind of coal in the United States. It would make iron in the raw state, just as it came from the mine.

Alexander L. Crawford was president of New Castle & Beaver Valley Railroad; treasurer and general manager of Nashville & Knoxville; vice president of National Bank of Lawrence County, Pa.; vice president of Sligo Furnace Co. of Missouri; president of Kimberly Iron Co. of Michigan; and president of Crawford Iron & Steel Co. of New Castle.

Crawford had eight children (only two living in 1890) — Hugh A. Crawford of Napa, Calif., and John L. Crawford of New York.

Crawford was a pioneer in the three most important industries in the United States: production of coal and iron and building of railroads. The states of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Tennessee owe much to his shrewd, far-seeing judgment for development of their latent resources.

Actively engaged in a railroad deal involving millions of dollars, Crawford was stricken with influenza, then pneumonia, and died in 1890 at New Castle, Pa., at the age of 76 years.

* Clark, Dorothy (†) * Biography = F

Irish immigrant prospered here

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Historically speaking

Clark retired as the Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

Jeremiah "Jerry" Fitzgerald was born in 1874 on a farm near Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, according to his daughter, Mrs. Margaret F. Heinig. He was the second son in a family of three sons and a daughter.

As was the custom in those days, little Jerry was given to nearby relatives who had no children. His maternal grandmother, an uncle and two aunts lived on an adjoining farm, and it was understood he would inherit their farm when the last one of the old folks died.

Young Jerry attended the country school more than a mile away. Every morning in cold weather he was required to carry a piece of peat moss as fuel for the heating stove. If a student forgot more than once to bring the peat, he was given a sound thrashing by the schoolmaster.

Jerry finished the ninth grade, which included algebra and Latin. Subjects had to be memorized word for word from a book in those days and recited in class.

Having heard the glowing stories of how easy it was to become rich in America, Jerry decided to leave Ireland. A cousin was more than willing to take his place on the farm with the expectation of becoming a land owner in time, so Jerry was free to leave.

He sailed for America from Queenstown when he was 20. Several five-pound notes were sewn in his clothing in addition to his passage money.

Arriving at New York, he inquired at the railroad station how to reach Mattoon, Ill., where his Aunt Ellen Tivnen lived. Her husband, John, operated a commission house, selling fruits, vegetables and ice to grocery stores. Here Jerry worked for his room and board and very little money.

On Sunday he rode the Big Four train to Terre Haute and visited his aunt, Mrs. John Ryle, who lived on North Sixth Street, and his uncle, Richard McMahon, who owned a grocery store at Fourth and the Big Four. The Ryles invited Jerry to come live with them and find employment here.

His first job was digging a sewer, but he kept looking for a better job. The Louis Gerhardt Bakery on 13th Street near Crawford Street needed a baker, so Jerry applied. His experience was limited to helping a cousin for four Sundays in his small bakery on North Fifth Street.

Telling Gerhardt, "I'm a fast man with the peel," a long-handled wooden paddle used to take bread loaves in or out of the oven, Jerry was hired. This was a turning point in Jerry's life, and the beginning of a long friendship between the two men.

After a year, Jerry developed "baker's asthma" caused by the flour, and was given a bread route to serve groceries in outlying areas around Terre Haute. Another wagon was built, and Jerry drove northeast where there were no paved streets. Many times he had to lift the wagon wheel out of a rut to get going again.

Very early he would load his wagon with bread, buns, scotch and sugar cookies and begin his deliveries. The drivers were served breakfast by Gerhardt's German-speaking mother at the family home just north of the store.

One cold morning, blowing snow and howling wind prevented Jerry from seeing or

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hearing a train on the C&EI tracks near Crawford Street, and he was hit. The team of horses was killed, and the big wagon was dragged down the tracks strewing bread and cookies all the way. Jerry was thrown out and escaped serious injury.

Recovering from his injuries, Jerry continued to add many stores to his bread route. It was in a grocery store where he met his future wife, Mary Holland, who had come in from her farm home to live with an aunt, Mrs. Frank Byrne, and learn the dressmaking trade.

The Byrnes operated a grocery at the northwest corner of Eighth and Locust streets, living upstairs over the store. Mrs. Byrne introduced Mary to the tall, handsome Irishman, and the following year (1897) they were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The newlyweds went to housekeeping in a small rented house on South 13th Street near Oak Street. The next spring they built a four-room cottage on the southeast corner of South 14th and Oak streets. The young couple had three chlidren: a daughter and two sons, and shared their home with Mrs. Fitzgerald's two younger sisters, Katherine and Agnes.

Jerry enjoyed accompanying Gerhardt to political rallies, and soon joined the Democratic party even though most of his relatives were Republican. He believed the Democratic party had more to offer the working man and decided to run for office.

In 1902 he ran for state representative and lost by a small margin. In 1904 he ran for sheriff of Vigo County and lost by just a few votes. Election irregularities were common in those days, and he later learned he had won!

Needing to make more money after his political losses, Jerry decided to open a saloon and restaurant in the brewery-owned building at the southeast corner of 13th Street and Wabash Avenue. Working men transferred to street cars going north, south and east at that busy corner and could easily enjoy a glass of beer while waiting.

He appealed to Crawford Fairbanks of the Terre Haute Brewery who loaned money for the venture and the building was renovated and freshly painted. A large sign, "When hungry, Stop and see Jerry!" welcomed men only.

When he was out of debt and had accumulated some extra money, Jerry decided to sell out, as he never had any liking for the saloon business.

Before settling down to business again, he decided to take a trip back to Ireland and see his relatives, especially his father who was 80 years old. Mrs. Fitzgerald stayed home with the children, and Jerry made the trip alone in 1910. His youngest brother, John, a farmer, returned to America with him.

Jerry decided to build his new bakery at 207 Ohio St., near the southeast corner of Second and Ohio. The three-story building that Jerry wanted was old but substantial. It did not run back to the alley, and the baking shop could be added at the rear. A vacant lot on the east joined the J.E. Milks Emulsion wholesale business that manufactured patent medicine there.

After the bank approved his loan, Jerry leased the building from George Flood with an option to buy. The Fitzgerald family rented a two-story house at Fourth and Crawford and sold their cottage.

The bakery building was renovated and the retail store was opened in front where second-day bread returned from the groceries was sold along with sweet goods. The building was extended to the alley, leaving just enough room for cleaning out the ovens.

Note: Jerry Fitzgerald's story will continue next week.

Clark, Dorothy
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Story of immigrant continues

Irish-born baker struggled through hard times

Last week's column related the story of Jerry Fitzgerald from the time of his birth in Ireland to the opening of his new bakery on Ohio Street, opposite the Vigo County Courthouse. The story continues . . .

Renting space in Diekemper's barn on South Second Street, Jerry started out with three horses and wagons. He took one route, his brother John another, and he hired a man for the third route. They loaded their wagons before daylight. If the grocery store was not open that early, the bread was placed in large wooden boxes outside.

The Miller Baking Co. of Terre Haute called their bread "Mother's Bread," so Jerry decided to call his "Papa's Choice." It was baked in single pound loaves and not wrapped in those days. He hired only union bakers, so a small paper sticker was attached to each loaf showing it had been baked in a Union Shop. Later, the bread was called "Betsy Ross" with a line of promotion bought from an advertising agency.

As Jerry was working such long hours, Mrs. Fitzgerald insisted on moving to the upstairs over the store. There was a front and back stairway, and she remodeled the rooms, moved in, and sent the children to the nearby parochial school.

In a few years, more space was needed, so Jerry bought the Milks Building and the vacant lot between. This building was used as loading space. The old Milks Building was turned into the new store building, with office and storage space in the rear. It already had a freight elevator, a deep basement with a large furnace, and the chimney was inspected and caulked where needed.

By this time there were five bread routes. Jerry bought a Ford and a Dodge truck for two new routes, making seven routes extending to West Terre Haute and Hymera. Then disaster struck. The newly acquired Milks Building caught fire in below zero weather and burned out of control. Water froze in the hose nozzles and could not be thawed out.

Later, it was learned that the heavy firing of the furnace that night burnt through the chimney caulking. Damage ran into thousands of dollars, and the insurance had lapsed due to an oversight. Jerry had to borrow money and accept help from several close friends.

About this time a chain grocery at Indianapolis began selling bread at a loss to attract shoppers to their stores. It was not long before Terre Haute had its first chain store which sold 10-cent loaves of bread for 5 cents. It was not as good, but it could be eaten. The only bakery in town that was not hurt by this new practice was Miller's Bakery, because they sold crackers and cakes throughout adjacent states and did not pay union wages.

Times were getting hard and some of the coal mines were closed. With less coal to haul, some of the railroad workers were laid off. Some of the grocers could not pay their bills and took a much smaller bread order than before. Most of their customers were buying chain store bread.

Just when conditions seemed to be improving, a bakery came to town and began selling a new type of bread, high and fluffy, and made from a new formula. People liked it. It could not be baked in the old-time ovens that Fitzgerald or Ideal Baking Co. had as the roofs of the ovens were too low. Jerry had to tear down his three ovens, one by one, and have them rebuilt.

Bread was now being wrapped in wax paper, adding further to the expense for the machine and operators. The first wrapping machines were not fully automatic. The operator had to push the loaves forward.

At one time the bakers decided they did not want to work at night. Jerry's bakery did not have enough ovens to bake enough bread except during the night.

Mr. Moreheimer of the Ideal Baking Co. telephoned Jerry when he heard of the bakers' meeting in an upstairs room of the Tune Building at Fifth and Wabash. Jerry appealed to the bakers to reconsider and not put the bakeries out of business and themselves out of work. They returned to work.

In August 1912, the coal miners of the Terre Haute area joined ranks and struck. The strike dragged on until the men and their families were destitute. Relatives moved in together. Everything possible was done to economize.

Finally, in desperation, they began breaking out the glass windows in the West Terre Haute groceries and taking what food they needed to keep alive. The next day the same desperate rioting took place in Twelve Points on the city's north side. The sheriff and his deputies and the city police did what they could, but it looked as if the jail would not hold all the law breakers.

A commissary was opened in West Terre Haute and Twelve Points where the county and city furnished some food, but not nearly enough. Fitzgerald sent two wagonloads of bread to each commissary. He could not afford it, but he wanted to help.

It was about this time a committee from the Democratic Party asked him to run for Mayor of Terre Haute. He thanked them for the honor, but said he could not do the office justice and still operate the bakery. It took all his time and energy to sell more bread. He had added an excellent loaf of raisin bread to his line, also wholewheat and bran, the first diet loaf in Terre Haute.

Jerry and the old veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic had always had a fine neighborly relationship, so he took it upon himself to help them when the Indiana State Fire Marshal condemned Memorial Hall next door east of the bakery. If it were not repaired, it would be torn down.

The city administration could not assume responsibility. As a member of Kiwanis Club, Jerry took the problem to that civic group. Their parade and publicity collected a few hundred dollars. People wanted to give but had no money.

Jerry asked for more time, and started out to raise funds for the old soldiers. He and Thomas Cottom, one of the most able-bodied veterans, canvassed the town and managed to raise more $9,000. A meeting hall for all patriotic groups was added in 1912 at the rear of the original old State Bank Building dating back to 1835.

Memorial Hall was completed and opened, and veterans of both the Civil War and the Spanish American War presented Jerry with a gold watch for his devotion to the cause.

By this time Jerry's health was failing from overwork and extremely high blood pressure. He sold his bakery to a New York firm, and bought a home at 19th and Ohio streets.

In 1932, Jerry again decided to run for public office. As a Democratic candidate for clerk of Vigo County Circuit Court, he led the ticket receiving many Republican votes. He was the only candidate who had carried every precinct in Vigo County.

His last years were happy ones until at the age of 61, he suffered a severe stroke and died three weeks later on May 27, 1935.

Thousands of local people paid their last respects to this public-spirited "friend to all." His funeral procession was so long, an escort of motorcycle police was provided, the first in the city.

It was impossible to let everyone in the church because the crowds of mourners were so large. His old friends from across the grade walked from West Terre Haute to his funeral.

Jerry Fitzgerald was buried in Calvary Cemetery, with full military honors of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War veterans, ceremonies never before performed for a civilian.

Historically speaking

Clark retired as the Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

Curriers honored for tutoring re

By Ginny Fazzari
Special to the Tribune-Star

When you can't read, and finally gain the courage to join a literacy program, you would be very lucky to find tutors such as Bill and Hazel Currier, Volunteers of the Month. This couple was chosen by the Volunteer Action Center, a United Way Agency, which matches the skills of people willing to give their time to the needs of non-profit organizations and institutions in the Wabash Valley.

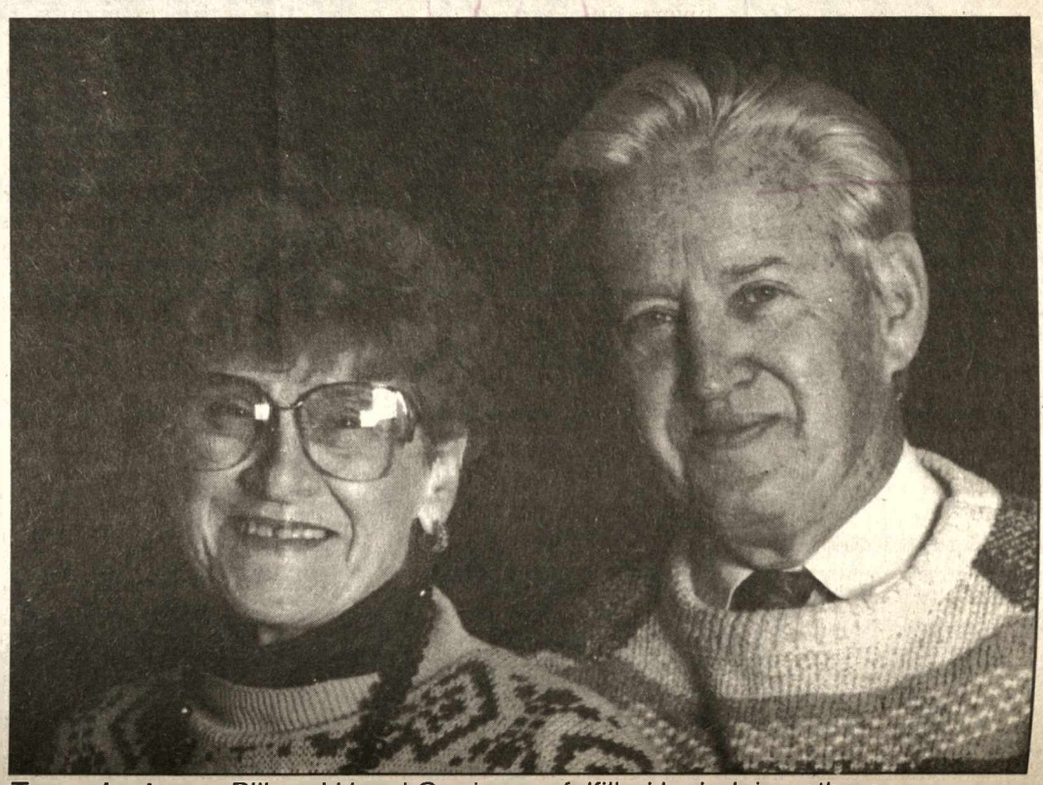
The Curriers volunteer at the Clinton Public Library in a Literacy Program called CATS — Clinton Adult Tutoring Service. Because of expansion and renovation, the library is temporarily operating in the old, original PSI building by the river.

Dolores Reagin, Clinton's head librarian, says "I can't think of two people who are more worthy of recognition than Bill and Hazel. They are very committed and hard working volunteers in our literacy programs."

The Curriers use their teaching talents in diverse ways. Hazel helps her students attain General Equivalency Degrees by keying on weaker subjects and giving instruction geared to each individual. Sometimes her students are more than 50 years old, sometimes younger with school-age children, sometimes single or single parents. All must be 18 and older.

Bill brings a unique sensitivity to his students. He has dyslexia — an impairment of the ability to read, often manifested by seeing letters and numbers in reverse order. This condition is often misunderstood by teachers, parents and the person, himself; causing confusion, frustration, embarrassment and misplacement in school and later in work situations.

With this background and the ability to overcome the drawbacks, Bill understands the problems his students experience. He knows the fears they face such as, "why should I try again, I've failed so many times, why should this time be any different?" "What if they find out at work that I can't read, could I lose by job?" He also knows that the adult mind is not as pliable as a child's, and that it takes longer and more patient persistence to latch onto new concepts.



Top volunteers: Bill and Hazel Currier are fulfilled by helping others.

Bill has developed music as a teaching tool. He uses familiar songs with known lyrics. The rhythm helps. The ongoing melody forces the student to keep pace. Also, there is a greater sense of accomplishment as the student learns a longer block of written words more quickly than by laboring over textbook exercises.

To cite an example of musical encouragement he remembers a student who had never successfully mastered the alphabet. Bill used the sing-song ditty that many of us memorized as children . . . ABCD . . . EFG . . . HIJK . . . etc. Together they sang the alphabet through for about 10 minutes. Then the student sang alone. The student cried when it was realized at that moment, the entire alphabet had been recited correctly for the first time in decades of trying. Bill cried too.

This example points to a desire of both Curriers — to make sure there is success at each learning session, so that students leave feeling good about themselves and eager to return.

In addition to tutoring, Hazel leads a very busy life. She devoted 15 years to the Tax Aide program where she helped senior citizens and low-income people figure tax returns. She likes to garden and play bridge. She also collects and makes miniatures by furnishing entire rooms with everything from furniture to complete decorations —all done in tiny, minute size. She has been active in Newcomers Club for 15 years and participates in their special skills a proclai Ten retirem where Researc now th enjoys travel s and Ala Alaska moved er." Fo preside ing on writing and te success one w willing from h this ta one an take re The grandc them a two, bo emergi Ano ipate i nations hostel cago. Bill are inte who, f trapped other c Currier keep t them, t change ways. Any about may c Volunt 8822; o Ave.

Catholic Women plan annual store

The Deanery Chapter of the National Council of Catholic Women has announced plans for its annual Christmas Store, open this year from Dec. 6 through Dec. 10 at Ryves Hall Youth Center at 1356 Locust.

with their name and telephone number on it for a drawing at the end of the week for comforters and a gingerbread house, Pinson said.

Items for the Christmas Store are donated by parishioners of

Looking back

Dorothy Jerse looks back every week at local history as reported in the Terre Haute Tribune and the Tribune-Star.

Ten years ago (1983)

● The Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Seelyville celebrated its 75th anniversary. The original parishioners, many of whom were immigrants from Czechoslovakia and Lithuania, had

● Gary Weir, man won the pr the downtown H Corner Furnitur 40.

● General Te Worley announc service would b possible for inc dialed directly instead of being

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★ Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The name of Vrydagh was prominently associated with the construction business in Terre Haute. Jupiter G. Vrydagh was the leading architect and superintendent of building in the city. He was following in his father's footsteps, Josse A. Vrydagh, the most important local architect of his time.

Josse A. Vrydagh, born May 16, 1833, to Peter and Mary (Holler) Vrydagh, of Louvain, Belgium, was the son of a soldier in Napoleon's army, and participated in the battle of Leipsig, and later was a wholesale merchant and manufacturer of spices.

At the age of 14, Josse entered the Louvain School of Arts, and in 1854 joined the Phalausterian Colony, a group of about 250 persons from France, Belgium, Switzerland and the United States, which emigrated to Dallas.

During his residence in that city, young Vrydagh was engaged in contracting and architectural work and built the St. Nicholas Hotel, at that time and for many years afterward, the finest structure in Dallas.

In 1858 the colony disbanded, and Vrydagh traveled through the south, making a study of the slave question for a year, following which he returned to Europe and visited some of the principal cities of France, Belgium and England.

In 1862 he visited the World's Fair in London. A year later he returned to the United States and located at Decatur, Ill. After six months he went to Cincinnati and from there, in 1866, to Terre Haute and became the city's most noted pioneer architect.

In 1870 he was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. With 50 other architects, in 1874, he submitted centennial buildings at Philadelphia and was awarded one of the ten premiums.

For submitting the best plans for rebuilding the burned patent office building at Washington, D.C., he received $1,000 in 1877. During the years of 1881 and 1882 he was in the office of the supervising architect of the Treasury Dept. at Washington.

During his career in Terre Haute, Vrydagh was the leading architect, and his reputation extended over the entire state of Indiana and beyond.

Buildings of note erected after his plans specs, and under his supervision, included the old Indiana State Normal School, which was destroyed by fire in 1889; the Terre Haute Opera House; wholesale grocery and spice mills of Hulman & Co.; the Catholic Orphan's Home; St. John's Catholic Church; the Deming block; the Beach block, the old Marble block on Wabash Ave.; the Terre Haute High School (Wiley); the 15th, 16th and 17th district city schools (Sandison, Cruft and Harrison), the German Reformed and Lutheran churches, and many business houses, residences, warehousing, roundhouses and railroad car houses, all in Terre Haute.

He also was responsible for DePauw University buildings at Greencastle; the court houses at Vernon, the jails at Paris and Charleston, Ill., and a large number of public and private buildings at Evansville and other points in the state.

Josse A. Vrydagh was married in 1854 in Belgium to Victoria Notez, and they had five children: Martin U., Mary E., Jupiter G., Robert T., and Allison L. He died in 1898, his wife in 1905.

Born in Terre Haute in 1869, Jupiter G. Vrydagh completed the local high school course, and entered Rose Polytechnic Institute for two years. From 1890 until 1898 he was in St. Louis perfecting himself in his chosen field, but the death of his father recalled him to Terre Haute, and he took over the business.

Jupiter G. Vrydagh was responsible for the Naylor-Cox Block, the White Block on Wabash Ave., the Froeb-Cox Block, the main addition to Columbian Enameling & Stamping Works, the Root Glass Company's buildings, the Modes-Turner Glass Works, and the Gartland Foundry.

He was responsible for the old Fairbanks, Rea and old Deming public schools, the residences of Mr. Herz, Bruce Failey, Dr. Patton, and the A.O.Pfua home (2245 N. 9th St.), and many others, including the plans and building of the addition to St. Anthony's Hospital. For two years he was the architect for the Terre Haute city school board.

W. Homer Floyd began his career as an architect here in 1880. He was responsible for the Terre Haute House (building before the present one), the Indiana State Normal School (second building), the Filbeck Hotel, Wheeler Building, Erwin Block, Grand Opera House, Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library (still standing), and the Root and ings.

Mr. Floyd furnished the plans for many of the city's finest residences, including those of Crawford Fairbanks, H.J. Miller, George Foulkes, J.H. McCoy, and the Bement Flats.

In Chattanooga, he built the Read Hotel, the First and Third National Banks, the Park Hotel of Chickamauga, Tenn. He was the architect for the Dennison Hotel of Indianapolis, the McDermont and New Florence Hotels of Butte, Mont.; and the French Lick Springs Hotel, at French Lick, Ind.

Benjamin M. Knisely, a contractor and building of Terre Haute, came here in 1869 at the age of six. He first learned the trade of brick mason, learned more of the building trade in Chicago, and returned here in 1887.

He did all the brick work for the street railway of Terre Haute, three fire-engine houses, a school building, the Phoenix Club (later the Labor Temple), and many other structures. He built and owned two modern "flat buildings" (apartments) known as the Knisely Flats, at the southeast corner of Seventh and Chestnut. They were torn down recently in campus rejuvenation.

It's a never-ending pastime to determine just how many new buildings and residences have been added and how many of the older ones have been demolished or suffered so-called restoration.

Terre Haute's oldest building was built 1834-1835 as a Branch Bank of the State Bank of Indiana. The architect was Edwin J. Peck. After years of service to the city in many capacities, the building was given by the Memorial Hall Association, Inc., to local attorney John Kesler to be properly restored and made useful again as the law offices of the

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petitive drawings for the Cen- Sullivan, Bedford and Mount Herz department store build- Kesler Firm.

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Fry history tells of butchering

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Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

One of the best accounts of pioneer butchering-time was found in the Fry family history. Jacob L. Fry, or "Pappy Fry," learned the trade as a young man working for Adam and William Wolf.

Their regular butcher made him the official hog sticker and scalder, so by the time he had his own small farm in the early 1860s, he had already followed the trade among the neighborhood, and had acquired all the necessary tools — a homemade scalding trough, many sharp knives, a singletree, a Potts sausage stuffer, spoons, ladles, a cleaver (his first one was made from a broad-axe by his favorite blacksmith, truly tempered and ground very sharp.)

Other necessary equipment included kettles and paddle-stirrers, etc. He moved from farm to farm by a manure sled of his own design pulled by a horse. Because there was no refrigeration then, butchering was a cold weather job, much of the labor taking place out in the farmyard.

From the 1870s to 1890s, Pappy Fry did custom butchering only. From Thanksgiving to March he butchered daily for the Pennsylvania community within a 10-mile radius of his home. With the children to help with the many chores, the butchering day began at 4:30 a.m., with three large iron kettles and some small ones too, all full of boiling water heated over open fires.

The cattle and hogs were driven to Fry's farm and killed. One beef, perhaps of 1,000 pounds; one sheep, and maybe one hog was a day's work. The next day he might butcher six hogs weighing 300 to 500 pounds each. All the carcasses were usually hanging by 6 to 7 a.m.

Fry was adept at killing hogs, sticking the hog in the throat with a razor-sharp dirk. Next the hogs were scalded in a large trough of boiling water so the bristles could be easily removed. Next they were hoisted to a specially built tripod and hung there to be disemboweled.

From these carcasses came the meat to fill the families winter larders — chops, spare-ribs, tenderloins, hams, steaks, bacon, liverwurst, head-cheese, mincemeat, sausage, lard, pig's feet, jelly, pickled tongue, scrapple, dried beef and bologna.

Even the pig tails were made into whistles by the boys. Hams were cured and put in the smoke house with a slow-burning fire of fresh corn cobs and hickory wood to give the meat a delicious flavor. Fry had his own secret methods for sugar-curing hams and making bologna and sausages.

Pork loins and chops were fried brown and put in crocks and covered with hot lard. Pudding was made from the bony parts after being cooked until the meat fell off — also the liver and kidneys — then ground through the sausage grinder and seasoned. Scrapple was made by adding cornmeal to the highly seasoned pork juice.

His slogan "work, for the night is coming" was very true. The daylight hours were fewer in early December, but the days were long to the workers from 4:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mrs. Fry had as many as three women to help her clean kettles, pots, pans and crocks, and to make the meals for all the hungry family.

Fry had two men and three boys who stirred the pudding and rendered the lard. The boys tended the fires, which burned up cords of wood that had to be chopped and stacked nearby.

After Pappy Fry had made maybe 40 yards of sausage and 25 crocks of pudding, and who knows how many stands of lard, he was ready for a bountiful meal. He believed physical labor whets the appetite.

Fry served his neighbors in many ways, and the most unusual service was probably his ability to "pow wow."

Most of the people in this Pennsylvania community were very superstitious. They believed in "pow wow," and no one could convince them otherwise. He used common sense treatment for a sick cow or horse with the colic, but the humans were stubborn lot and stuck to their beliefs.

Many mothers, over the years, brought their babies to him to "pow wow" for decay. Suffering from insufficient nourishment from breast feeding alone in most cases, Fry would take the baby in his hands, holding it in the left hand and with his right hand on its head. After saying a silent prayer, he would advise the mother to make some "pap," flour paste from goat's milk, made from corn starch or wheat flour, and feed by teaspoonful every two hours, gradually increasing the amount for a week, and return to see if it was gaining. He could hold a baby and tell its weight by the feel.

So by using simple common sense treatment, he would lick the problem, and leave the mother happy. Mrs. Fry always gave the mother the first cupful of "pap" with a tiny bit of sugar added. This added calories as well as making the baby enjoy his new food.